

Inside
Wrestling



PAUL JONES:
"I'VE A LOT TO PROVE TO THE FANS"

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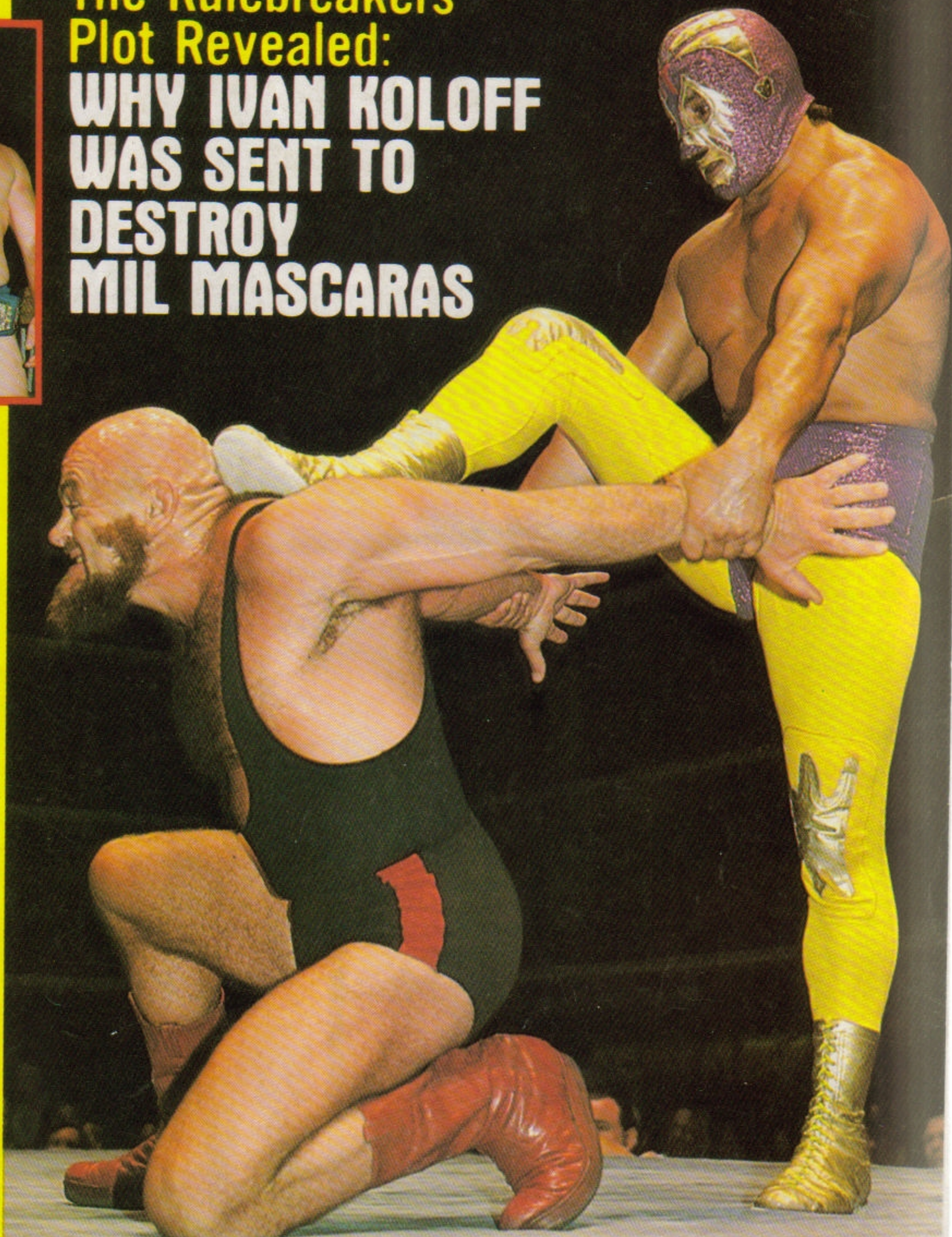


The Rulebreakers' Plot Revealed:
WHY IVAN KOLOFF WAS SENT TO DESTROY MIL MASCARAS

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE BACKLUND-MORALES TAG TEAM FIASCO

THE MEN PROGRAMMED TO ELIMINATE THE BRISCOS

COMEBACK!
NICK BOCKWINKEL'S LONG ROAD BACK TO THE TITLE



12

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

A poet once said Georgia in the autumn wears a crown of peaceful majesty. Obviously, he never watched Georgia Championship Wrestling.

Never before in the violent, bloody history of professional wrestling have so many feuds boiled simultaneously in one area. Mr. Wrestling and Mr Wrestling II vs. The Assassins. Steve Keirn vs. Dennis Condrey. Dusty Rhodes vs. the Anderson Brothers. Terry Funk vs. Uvalde Slim. The hatred these men have for one another burns like an unquenchable flame.

Perhaps the most heated of the feuds is Mr. Wrestling II and Mr. Wrestling vs. The Assassins. On a recent Georgia Wrestling telecast, Assassin #1 goaded Wrestling II until the masked fan favorite could stand it no longer. II challenged Assassin #1 to an immediate showdown in the ring. As soon as the two men climbed through the ropes, Assassin #2 came out of the dressing room and attacked II from behind.

The two men opened a vicious cut on Wrestling II's face. His white mask now stained crimson, Wrestling II fought valiantly but futilely. The Assassins pounded him into unconsciousness and ripped his mask off.

Fortunately, some of Mr. Wrestling II's friends came to his aid. Wrapping a towel around the fallen grappler's face, they led him back to the dressing room. But it was longtime friend and partner, Mr. Wrestling, who tried to put the whole ugly incident into perspective.

"When that sneak-attack occurred, I was on my way to the arena. I should have been there. From now on, though, Mr. Wrestling II will never have to be afraid of being attacked like that. Because I'll always be there. Always. Do you hear that, Assassins?"

I'm sure they did.

TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks

IT'S ALMOST AN inexplicable phenomenon, yet its existence has stopped many a great man just short of achieving his ultimate success. It frequently happens to businessmen. A young executive places his career before him, drawing a roadmap to a dream. As he follows that roadmap, he is a happy man. He knows he is doing all he can to push himself to a glorious accomplishment, and once he does, his life will be set. But just before he reaches that point, something twists in his mind. Suddenly, fear stops the man who was so long driven by determination. He cannot make that final push. For if he does and fails, there is nothing left to live for. And if he does and succeeds, there is nothing left to drive for. He will never know if he could have reached his goal because he will never make that final push. Either he stagnates in a position just short of his goal or he starts down the chute of failure.

The same thing happens to athletes. And unfortunately, one of the world's most popular athletes is inwardly afraid to make that final push.

Looking at Andre the Giant, one has to immediately wonder how such a man cannot be champion of the world. He stands 7-4, weighs more than 450 pounds, and possesses skills matched by very few wrestlers. Yet Andre is not champion now, and he is not likely to be in the future. Andre the Giant is afraid of success.

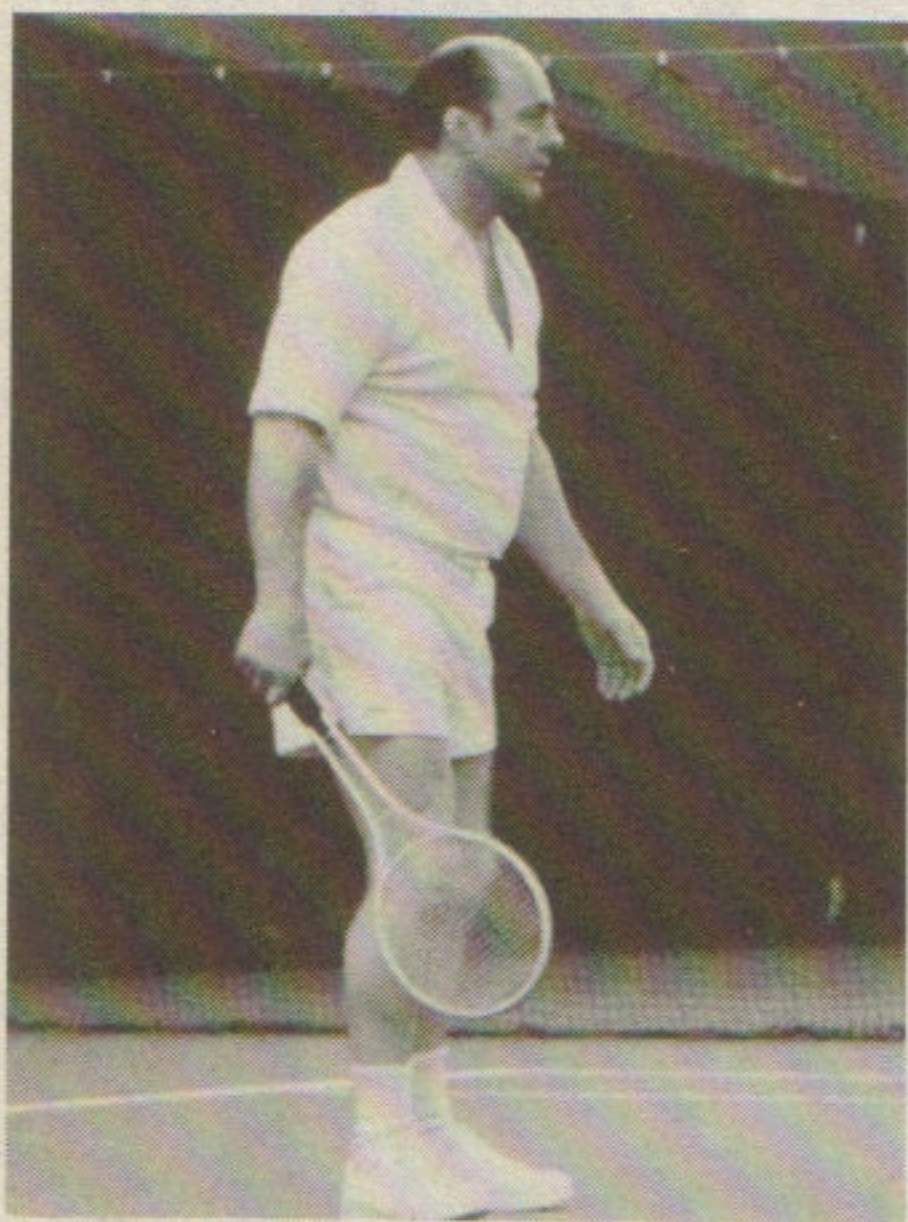
I do not claim to be a psychologist, but I think I know people. And the people I know best are wrestlers. Andre,

(Continued on page 48)



Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket



Dan Shocket does not feel Verne Gagne will hold the AWA title for long. While Verne lounges on the tennis courts . . .

WITH THEIR USUAL jackal glee, wrestling fans have been feasting on the bones of Nick Bockwinkel's defeat. Now that Verne Gagne has once again brought the AWA crown down to his level, people are gleefully tearing Nick's reputation to shreds.

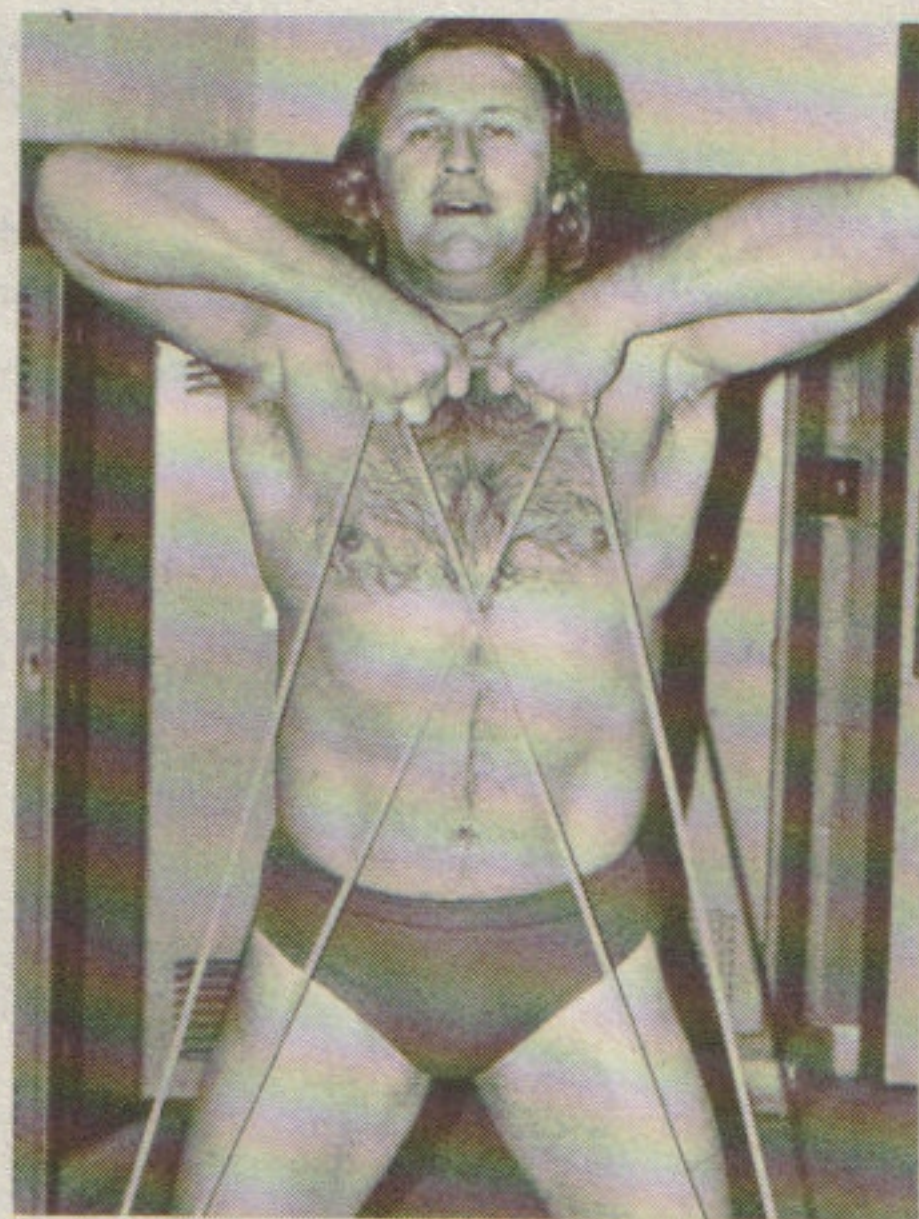
Hearing people lately, you'd never know that Nick held the title for five years. Never has the AWA enjoyed a more varied and brilliant defense of its crown. Under the tutelage of Bobby Heenan, Bockwinkel brought the science of

wrestling to a new height. There was genius in his best matches, even with the referees trying to handcuff him.

Most of the fans didn't appreciate Bockwinkel's reign, but the idiot masses never appreciated great art when they first see it. Instead, they cheer the fools who pander to their ignorance. That's why Gagne was cheered so wildly at his victory in Chicago's Comisky Park. The fans can understand Gagne. He's as stupid as they are.

First, let's get one thing straight. Anyone who saw the match knows Bockwinkel was choked to near death. Gagne claims it was a sleeperhold that finished Nick. If you can believe that, be prepared to purchase plenty of stock in the Brooklyn Bridge. P.T. Barnum said there's a sucker born every minute. He could have just as easily said there's a Verne Gagne fan born every minute.

After the match, back in his dressing room, Nick spit up blood for a frighteningly



. . . Former champion Nick Bockwinkel is training hard for their rematch. Shocket believes Nick will be an easy winner.

long time. A sleeperhold could not do that. A sleeper cuts off blood to the brain; it's physically impossible for a sleeperhold to produce internal bleeding.

However, a chokehold often causes tears inside the throat. The effects of a merciless choke are exactly the injuries suffered by Bockwinkel. Gagne choked Bockwinkel. That's a fact like air and gravity.

It's tragic that a champion of Bockwinkel's caliber should have his title stolen from him. It's

(Continued on page 64)

THE INSIDER

By STEVEN FARHOOD

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

Captain Louis Albano was recently fined \$5,000 by the WWF for betting on his own tag team, the Samoans, against Bob Backlund and Pedro Morales at New York's Shea Stadium!

It was not a good night for the Captain. Not only did the Samoans lose their precious WWF belts, but Albano also left Shea Stadium with a debt of \$5,000 plus whatever he lost on his bet.

"The WWF has fined Louis Albano, manager of the ex-tag team champion Samoans, \$5,000 for betting on a professional wrestling match," a WWF spokesman announced at a New York City press conference. "The WWF believes there is no room for betting in professional wrestling, whether by managers, referees, or wrestlers. We are prepared to strictly enforce our regulations against this sort of detrimental behavior. Even though Albano was wagering on his own tag team, he is not excused. If he is caught betting again, he will be suspended indefinitely."

Albano, needless to say, was furious.

"What right do they have to tell me what to do with my money, those monkeys in three-piece suits?" The Captain screamed. "First of all, I'd like to see them make their accusation



Lou Albano shows his scorn as he discusses the \$5,000 fine levied against him by the WWF for allegedly placing a bet on the Samoans in their title loss to Bob Backlund and Pedro Morales.

stick in a court of law, which is exactly where I'll be seeing them soon enough. And also, what's wrong with placing a few pesos on my own boys? I've made a small fortune betting on my own wrestlers with my bookie, Ralph the Nose, for years. He's the only bookie dumb enough to take action on my matches. He's a scientific wrestling freak and he won't

admit that my wrestlers are, and have always been superior. So I take his money. What's so wrong with that?"

Apparently, the WWF feels there's plenty wrong with that. And all of Albano's ranting and raving won't put back that \$5,000 in his pocket—or put back the WWF tag team belts around The Samoans' waists.

(Continued on page 50)

NAMES MAKI



SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK

SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK, DUSTY RHODES' valet? That's right. The plump Humperdink must do Dusty's bidding for a 30-day period as per the terms of a contract he and Ivan Koloff signed with Dusty.

The contract specified that Dusty and Koloff would wrestle with these stipulations: a) If Rhodes loses, he gets his head shaven in the ring. b) If Koloff loses, Humperdink must be Dusty's valet for 30 days.

Although it was a controversial decision, the Russian and his manager came out on the wrong end.

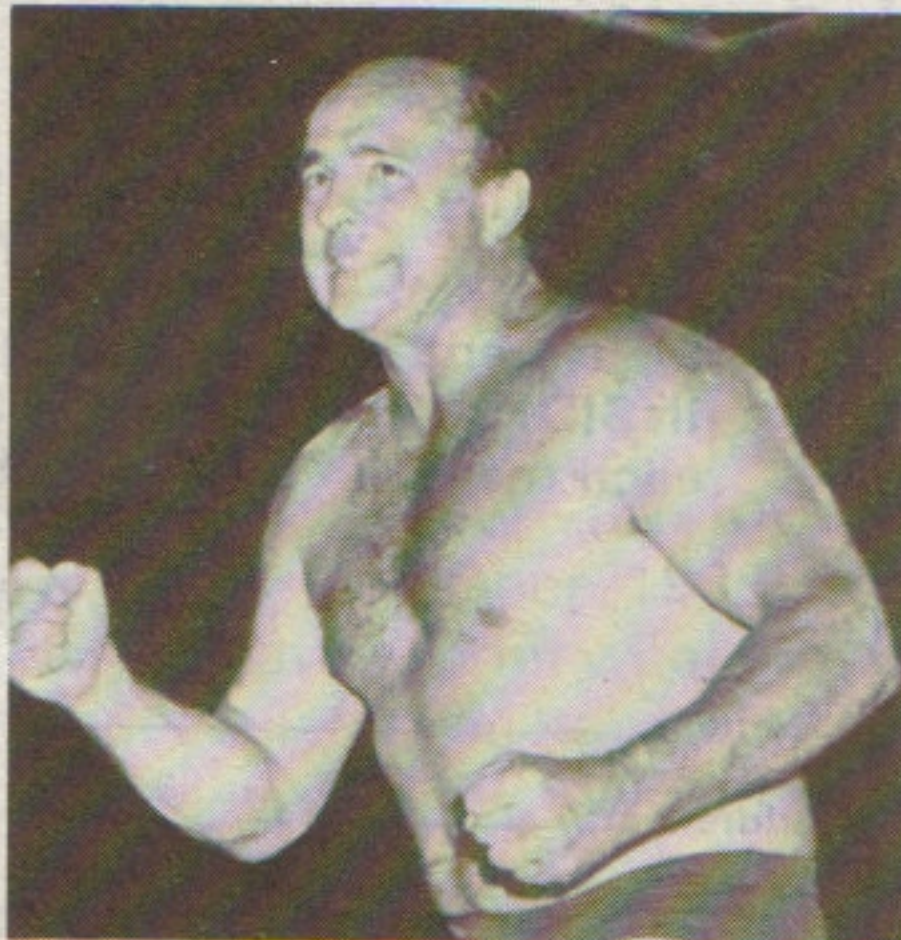
Just as this issue went to press, we learned that DENNIS CONDREY has taken the Georgia state title from STEVE KEIRN. "All I needed was a chance at that punk," bellowed Condrey. "I said I could whip him and I did!" . . .



DENNIS CONDREY

THE SHEEPHERDERS, the newest team in the Mid-Atlantic area, are looking for a chance to take the area title from MATT BORNE and BUZZ SAWYER.

Florida champion BUGSY MCGRAW says whipping DON MURACO for the championship was the most satisfying victory he's had . . . KERRY VON ERICH and EL HALCON hold the prestigious American tag team title . . . VERNE GAGNE, back from a tour of Europe, plans to give former AWA champion NICK BOCKWINKEL several re-matches. "I just want to show each and every fan out there that my win was not a fluke," Verne said.



VERNE GAGNE



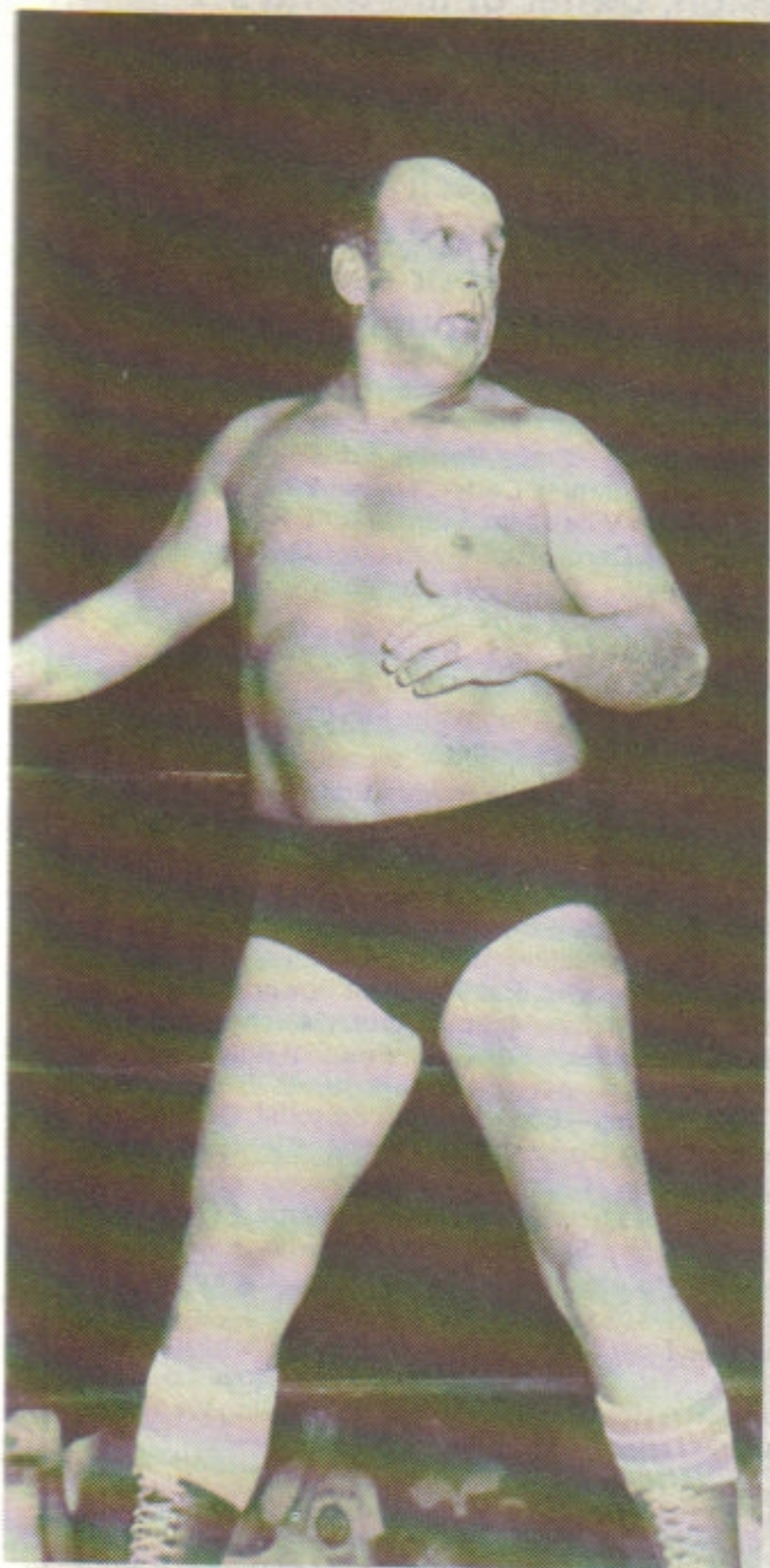
BORNE & SAWYER

Rumors persist that PEDRO MORALES may challenge BOB BACKLUND for the WWF title because he's hot at Bob for relinquishing the tag team belts they won from the Samoans. Let's hope this is just an ugly rumor . . . KILLER KARL KOX is headed to Texas . . . BRUNO SAMMARTINO is nearly content with the knowledge he's shown LARRY ZBYSZKO who is boss. But Zbyszko has been stirring up more trouble, saying that Bruno did not win the Shea Stadium cage match. "I was the victor," Zbyszko says. "Let me see if Bruno is man enough to take me on in a no rules no time limit match. I would whip him to a pulp if he accepted my offer, and he knows it."

CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO is convinced that THE SAMOANS will win the tournament to determine new WWF tag team

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



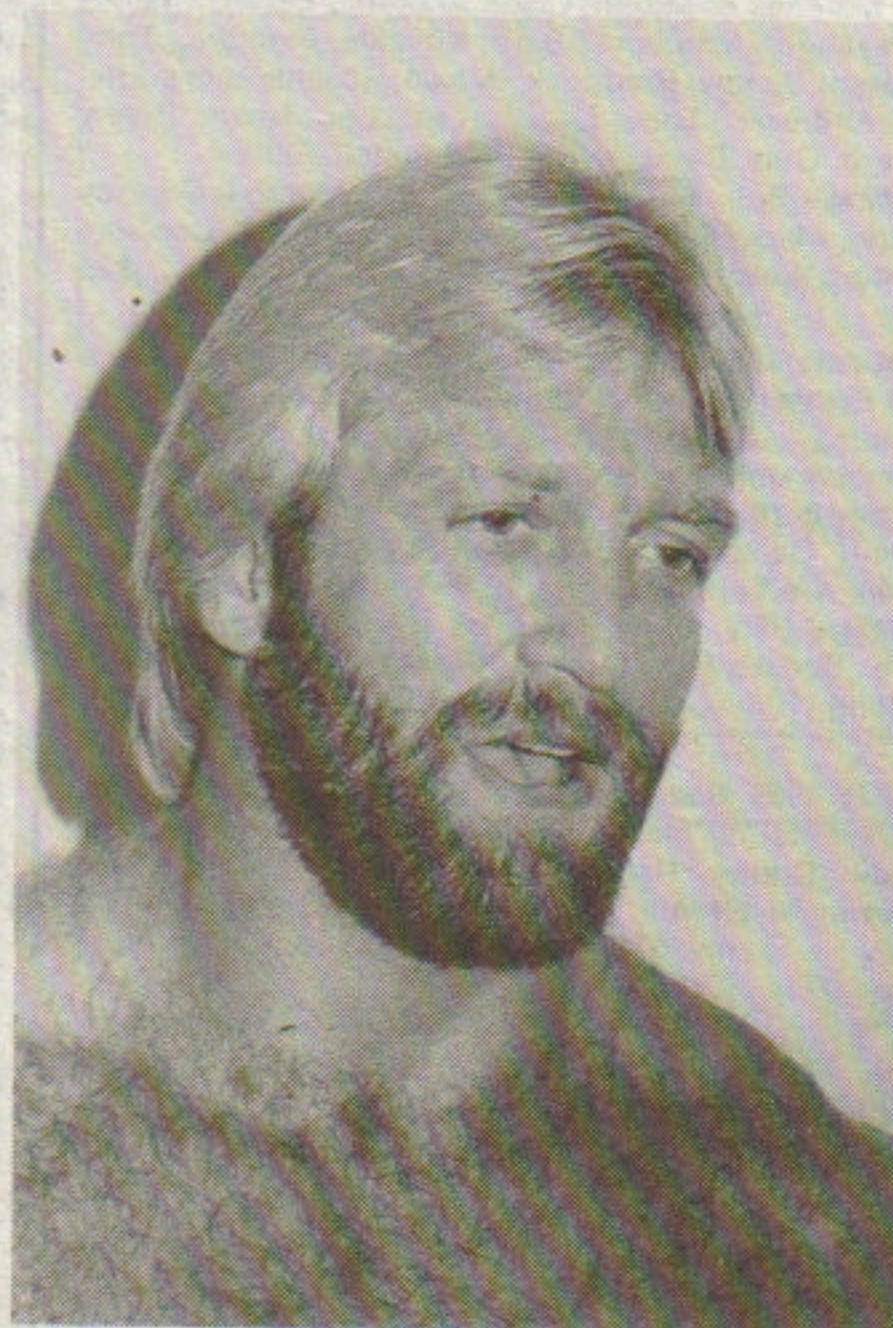
KILLER KARL KOX

champions . . . NWA champion HARLEY RACE made a return to the Mid-Atlantic region after a lengthy absence and took on RICK STEAMBOAT. Only the time limit stood in Rick's way as he pressed Harley for the win only to have the bell sound at the moment of the "three" count.

RODDY PIPER is teaming with former enemy LORD JOHNATHAN BOYD. The reason for teaming? Mutual hatred of the tag team of PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE and ED WISKOWSKI . . . "LUSCIOUS" JOHNNY VALIANT is taking some matches in Pittsburgh . . . SWEET BROWN SUGAR is feuding with PAK SONG in Texas . . . BULLDOG BROWER is starting riots in Texas rings.

PAUL ORNDORFF has apologized to North American Champion TED DiBIASE for the way he embarrassed Ted into giving him a title match. Since the two are good friends, DiBiase had denied Orndorff a shot at the title. During an interview, Paul shocked the television audience by calling DiBiase a coward and slapping him across the face. Paul got his match. The fans, though, expecting a brawl, witnessed one of the classic scientific matches in a long while, ending with a handshake after the one-hour time limit elapsed. "It [the slap] was the only way I could get a title shot," Orndorff said. "Ted and I are talking again."

THE GRAPPLER is the Mississippi champion. The Mysterious masked man says that this is not his first major title—and it won't be his last . . . SCOTT McGEE is tacking up an incredible victory streak in Florida . . . TONY ATLAS says that IVAN PUTSKI has become one of his favorite tag



PAUL ORNDORFF



TOMMY & EDDIE GILBERT

team partners . . . ANDRE THE GIANT still cannot gain a clear cut victory over HULK HOGAN.

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER and former partner MARK LEWIN recently squared off in one of the most brutal matches in years. When the dust cleared, Abdullah was disqualified for using brass knuckles on Lewin, the referee, the promoter, ringside officials, and some spectators!

TOMMY and EDDIE GILBERT have won the Southern tag team title from EL MONGOL and KILLER KRUPP . . . JERRY LAWLER is back in action after a lengthy absence. Lawler, sidelined with a leg injury, now has a feud going with Krupp. Lawler also wants to get his hands on his ex-manager JIMMY HART. "He called me a loser and dropped me when I needed a manager the most," says Lawler. "He'll pay for that!"

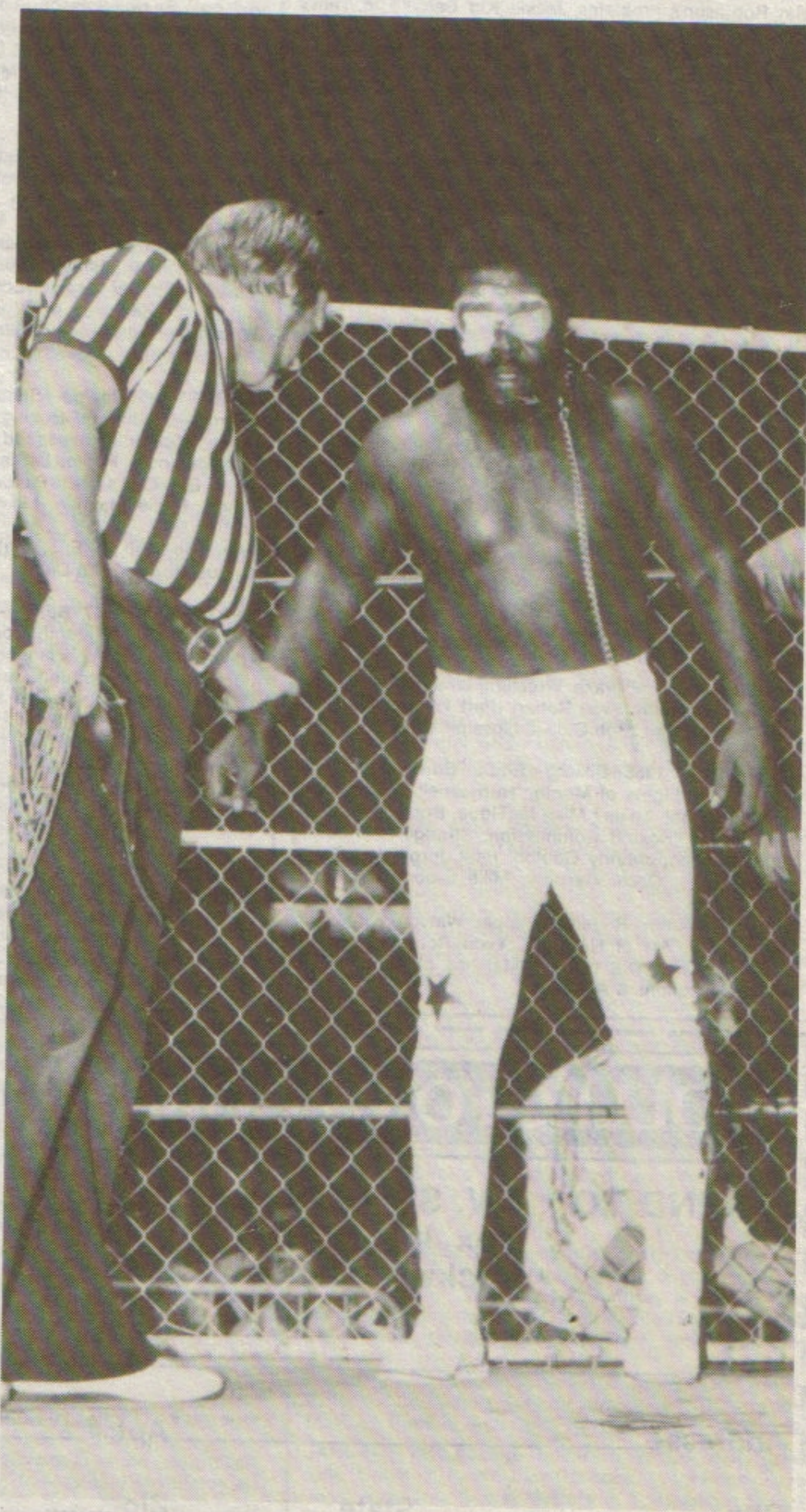
That's all for now. See you next month. □



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

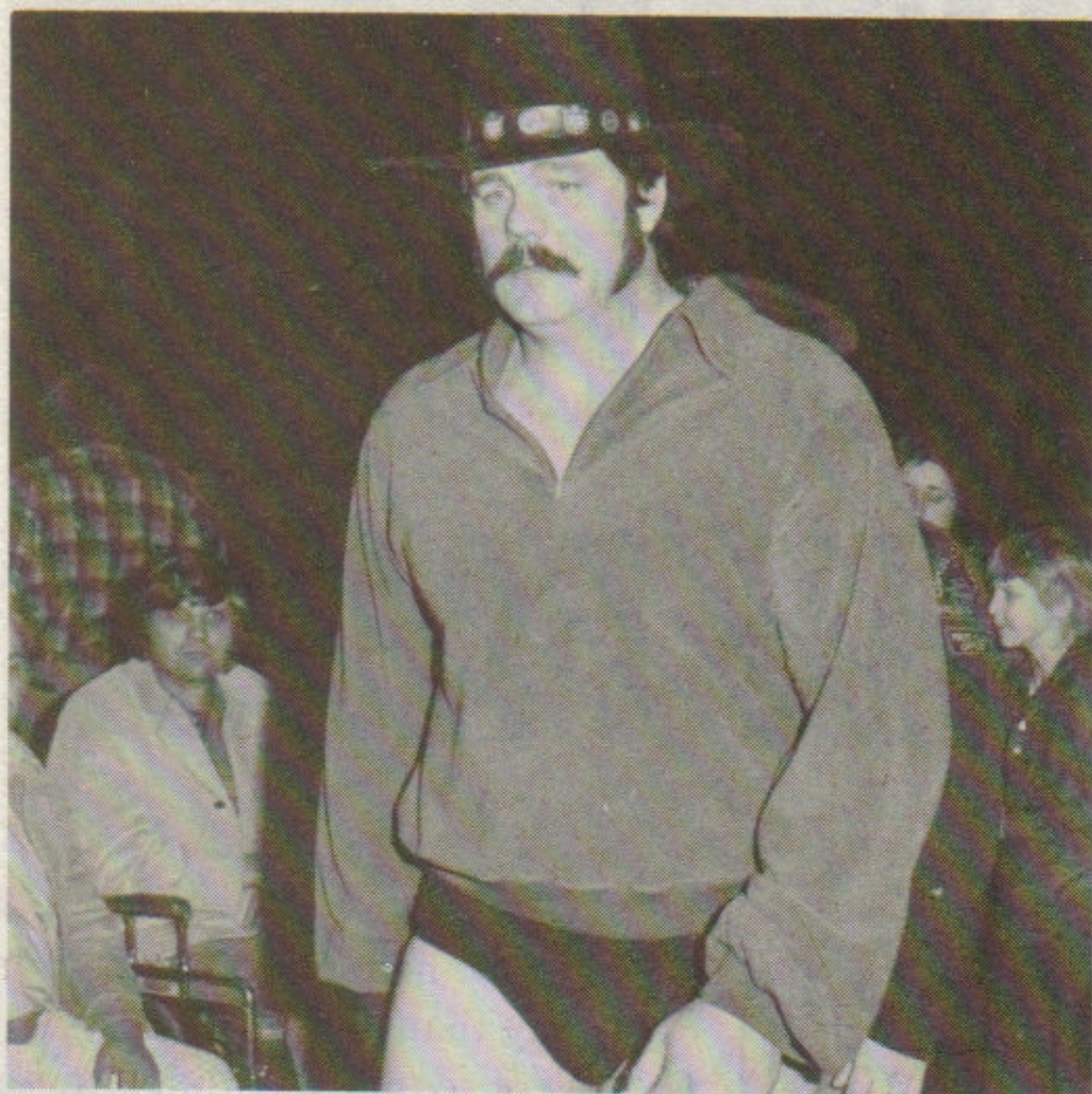
TAMPA, FL: Spent the better part of the day with NWA champion Harley Race. Found the four-time champ in good spirits. Wish I was. Lost my travelers checks. Nope, didn't leave home without them. Took them all right but misplaced them somewhere. Went back to all the joints and they were closed. Strange town, closing bars at 8:30 in the morning. So I applied for replacement of the checks. Nope, didn't have the conventional ones advertised on television. Got a good deal through a buddy at the track. Abe's Traveler's Checks. Ever hear their motto? Wish I had. Went to seven banks to replace the checks and, after wasting a day, discovered Abe had folded his tent and was reported somewhere in the Dominican Republic. So I'm out 23 bucks and had to call in IOUs from the Eisenhower years to get by. But back to Race. Harley expressed genuine amusement at Dusty Rhodes' vow never to wrestle for the NWA title while Race holds the belt. Harley told me he's tired of Rhodes and wants some new, good competition. Besides, the NWA champ said, Rhodes doesn't deserve any further title shots.

NEW ORLEANS, LA: Can't remember the last time I got tears in my eyes while interviewing a wrestler. But Junkyard Dog isn't just any wrestler nor is he just any man. In a world increasingly beset by mediocrity and cowardice in the face of challenges, Junkyard Dog stands as a beacon of courage and fortitude. Dog was blinded by acidic medicated powder. He didn't whine nor weep about his misfortune. He didn't try to get out of matches or use a tin can in the ring to garner sympathy. Dog accepted his disability, vowed to recuperate, and continued wrestling as best he could. What a rare individual! After spending an hour with Junkyard, I felt ashamed at all my petty complaints.

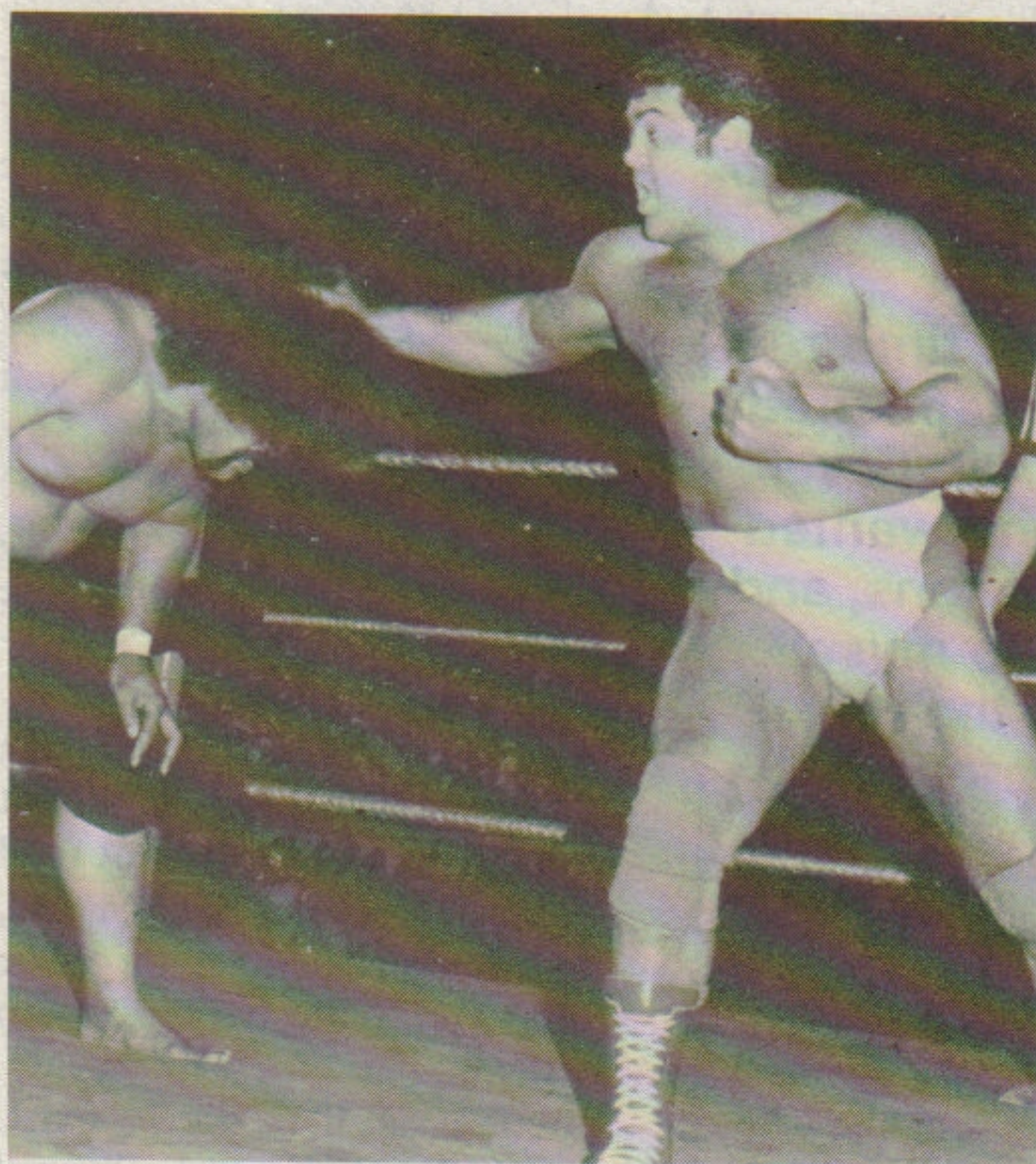


JUNKYARD DOG

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



BLACKJACK MULLIGAN



SIKA THE SAMOAN VS. PEDRO MORALES

RICHMOND, VA: Want to talk about Blackjack Mulligan. Remember the first time I saw the guy. Big, strong, mean. A brute. Loved to knock people into the fifth row and stomp their face. But Blackjack changed. Decided that wasn't his way. Like most, I entertained deep suspicions. Seen a lot of guys conveniently alter styles for a while, then stab someone in the back. Seen it too many times to list. So I waited, maybe longer than most, to truly believe Mulligan's intentions were sincere. They are. Right now, Mulligan takes on anything that moves. He doesn't back off any fights, no matter the opponent.

MEMPHIS, TN: Guess who's breathing fresh air into the Tennessee wrestling scene? Billy Robinson, Britain's greatest gift to America since tea and Boodles Gin. Had dinner with Robinson and ended up spending eight hours of non-stop wrestling talk. Robinson never wavered from his belief in what was right and wrong. Even in the worst of times when rumors abounded he was being blacklisted in the AWA, Robinson maintained his perspective. He understands it's only a sport and not a substitute for war. Right now, Robinson demonstrates that same gentle touch armored by principled dedication he displayed throughout his career. Truly, Robinson is a man all youngsters should admire and model themselves after. Within the ring and outside.

NEW YORK, NY: Poor Pedro Morales. After he and Backlund won the WWF tag team titles from The Samoans, Morales geared up to start a lengthy reign as co-champion. But Arnold Skoaland decided Backlund wouldn't have enough time to devote to two titles and asked his wrestler to forfeit the tag team title. A special round-robin tournament will determine a new pair of champions. Morales isn't happy. Oh, I had to move out of Bill Apter's apartment. The other night was the last straw. At two in the morning, Apter and his roommate started roller-skating around the couch I had been asleep on, doing Jimmy Cagney impressions. Have to swallow my pride and move in with Dan Shocket. □

HOTSEAT

PAUL JONES: "I'VE A LOT TO PROVE TO THE FANS"

ON HIS FIRST day back in the Mid-Atlantic area, he went on television and delivered a public apology to all his fans, present and former. He admitted that petty jealousies got the best of him and he lost his head. He asked the fans to give him another chance and allow him to prove loyalty once more. To say the least, their reaction was lukewarm. Then he wrestled Masked Superstar. Throughout the match, he flashed the old style of tough, clean wrestling which made him a star. Bit by bit, the fans warmed to him, eventually giving him a standing ovation at the conclusion of the bout. Yes, Paul Jones has returned to the Mid-Atlantic area.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED
BY STU SAKS

Q: Paul, there's a lot to talk about.

A: I'll answer any questions.

Q: The obvious is your where-

abouts for the past few months.

A: I can't answer that.

Q: Why?

A: Just can't. I'll answer any other question, but not that one.

“

I spent a lot of time re-thinking what happened. I felt really guilty over my actions and wanted to prove to the fans, and importantly, to myself, that wasn't the real Paul Jones.

”

Q: Would you confirm or deny a rumor that you were seriously injured in a fight with Rick Steamboat and underwent extensive physical rehabilitation?

A: I will neither confirm nor deny that.

Q: Were you wrestling in a different area?

A: I can't say.

Q: Okay, then, why did you come back?

A: Fans in the Mid-Atlantic area have always been great to me. I spent a lot of time re-thinking what happened during my last stay there. I felt really guilty over my actions and wanted to prove to the fans, and importantly, to myself, that wasn't the real Paul Jones.

Q: Why did it happen?

A: I was jealous of Steamboat's success and simply didn't handle it well. I was not used to being second-banana and, in that tag team, I was. The reporters always went to Steamboat for interviews, acting as if I didn't exist. It slowly built and built until all I ever did was think about





“

Both of us are willing to work at establishing the trust, especially Steamboat. He's willing to give me another chance, which is important, and I'm willing to see if we could have a tag team partnership on equal footing.

”

my status, and, since I didn't discuss it with anyone, it blew up inside me and drove me to that fight.

Q: Do you think Steamboat was responsible?

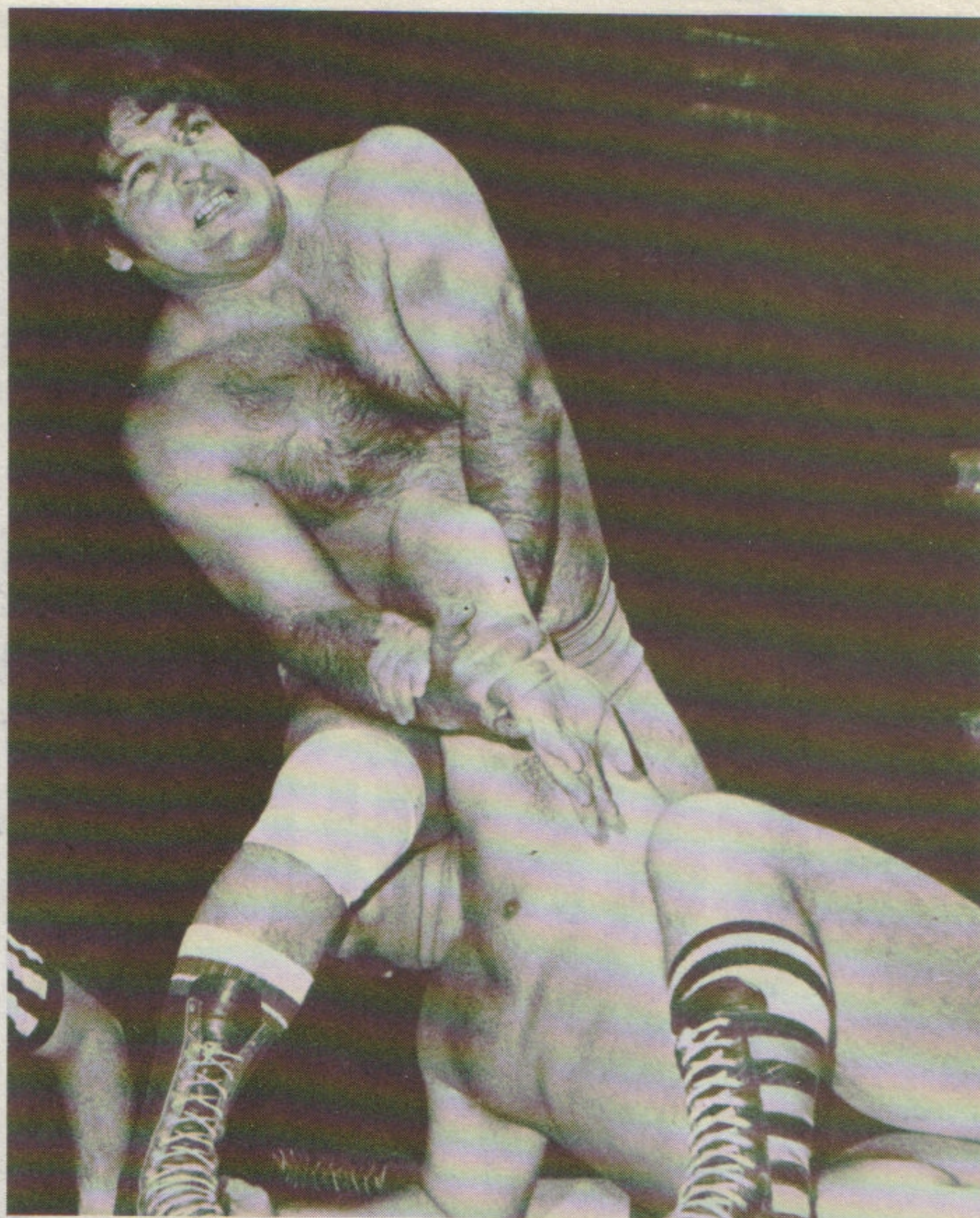
A: No, not really.

Q: You're hedging.

A: Well, Ricky's a charismatic sort of guy. I guess someone like that just naturally takes over a room or a match. He can't help it, just the way he is.

Q: What happened the first time you and Steamboat saw each other since your return?

A: Uh, it wasn't exactly love at first sight (laughs). There was considerable hostility. But, you know, it's strange. Once you're friends, that basis always exists. Despite our



Paul Jones is facing the most difficult task of his career. He must prove his character to the fans and wrestlers alike. After being among the most popular wrestlers in the Mid-Atlantic, Jones went bad. But after a lengthy absence, he is back and asking forgiveness.

break-up, the warmth and mutual interests that once bound us still existed, though the hostilities obscure them. Now that we're almost back on the track, that old friendship is blossoming again.

Q: How does the relationship stand now?

A: It's getting there. Still not especially tight, but in the few matches we've teamed together, some trust has built up. But it isn't total yet.

Q: Can it ever be?

A: I honestly don't know. At least both of us are willing to work at establishing the trust, especially Steamboat. He's

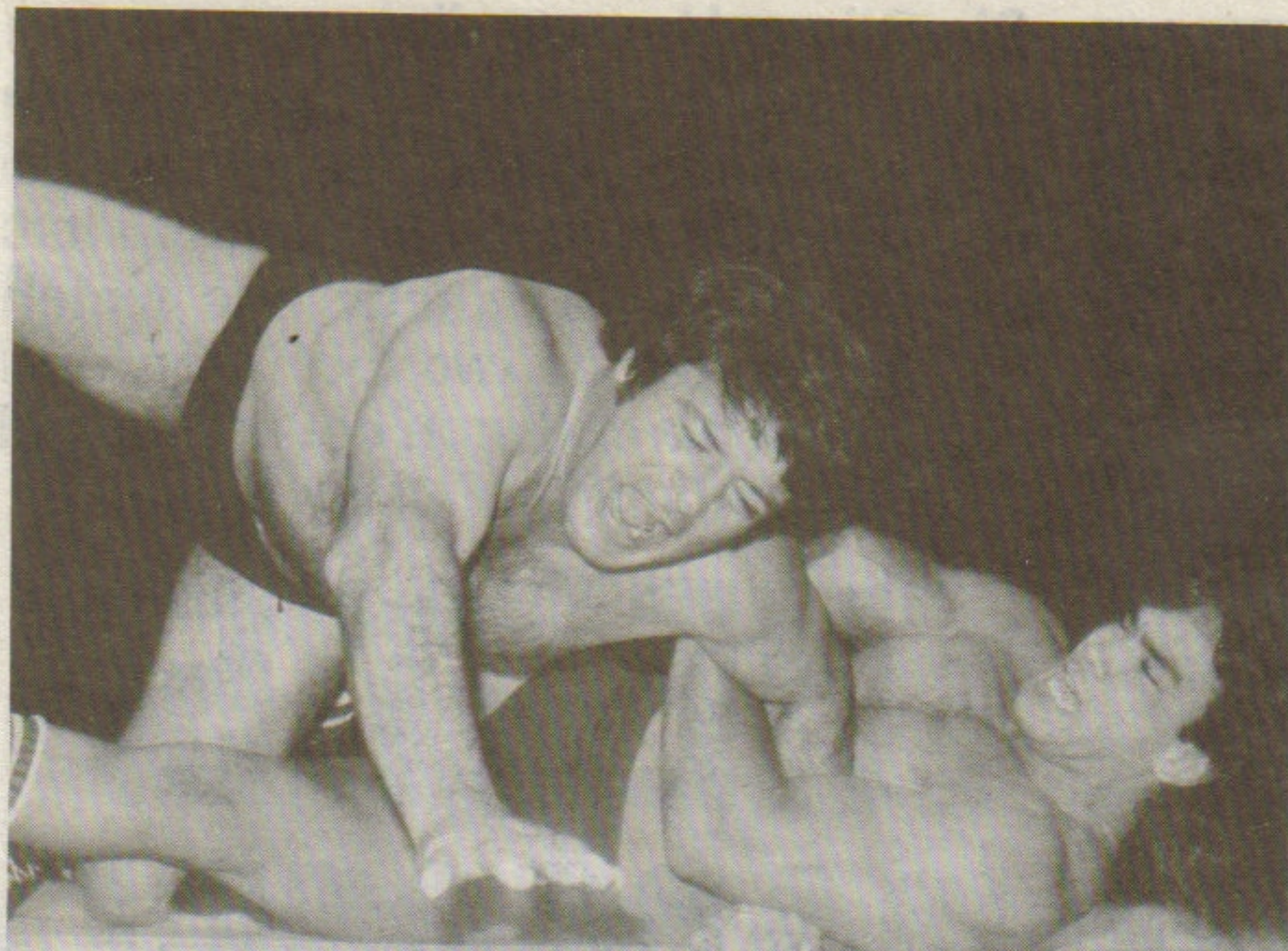
willing to give me another chance, which is important, and I'm willing to see if we can have a tag team partnership on equal footing. But those are big ifs.

Q: Have you decided to change your tactics since your return?

A: From my last matches, absolutely (chuckles).

Q: No. Will Mid-Atlantic fans see the old scientific Paul Jones or a slightly different type?

A: I think fans will see a more aggressive Paul Jones than before. But my aggressions will be directed exclusively at the area of rulebreakers.



Q: Why more aggressive?

A: Because that's needed to win.

Q: Could it be unresolved hostilities?

A: I have the feeling you're playing armchair psychologist.

Q: No, just trying to get to the truth.

A: I was warned you were relentless.

Q: Maybe, but that isn't important. Do you still feel the same kind of hostilities you felt before?

A: I still feel all my talents and achievements aren't accorded just recognition. That still bothers me. I think Paul Jones should be given more credit than he gets.

Q: Do you think you deserve credit now?

A: Not yet. I've a lot to prove to the fans.

Q: Who in the Mid-Atlantic area particularly upsets you?

A: There's a lot.

Q: As they say, start in the beginning.

A: Okay. First off, there's Masked Superstar. I thought it fitting he was my opponent in my first match back. He's a total bum. Does nothing but try and hurt people.

Q: Who else?

Jones, as a rulebreaker, battles Rick Steamboat before leaving the area (above). In his first match back, Paul confronts the hated Masked Superstar (below). Jones is quickly winning back the hearts of the fans (bottom).



“

I'd like my philosophy to be one of decency, fairness, and toughness. I won't back off from a fight, but I won't pick one either. And I'll show mercy to any foe. As long as he deserves it.

”

A: Greg Valentine. It sickens me to think Valentine is holding the U.S. title.

Q: Are you going after him?

A: Valentine will be one of my targets. But this area is crawling with rulebreaker bums. I also don't care for this guy Enforcer Luciano. I don't like what he stands for.

Q: Speaking of standing for something, what does Paul Jones intend to stand for?

A: I'd like my philosophy to be one of decency, fairness, and toughness. I won't back off from a fight, but I won't pick one either. And I'll show mercy to any foe. As long as he deserves it.

Q: Paul, thanks for coming by on the Hotseat.

A: Glad I could make it, Stu. □



Sir Oliver Humperdink relies on a wide variety of fiendish devices to aid his managerial career. Now the master of sadistic strategies has discovered a new tactic, one which brought together two foul men and set them on a collision course aimed directly at Jack and Jerry Brisco

THE MEN PROGRAMMED TO ELIMINATE THE BRISCOS

FREDERICK SMYTHE TURNED off the blinking, beeping machine at his side. With great sadness, he unplugged the squat computer, sighed, and slumped on the couch.

"Matilda and I have been through a lot," said Smythe, a Ph.D in computer psychology. "Spent the better part of my life creating the perfect machine to help mankind."

"All those nights in my great aunt's basement in Newark, laboring by candlelight sometimes until the sun came through the windows and I had to go to class. But I never gave up. God, there were some doozy experiments."

Smythe leaned back and adjusted his black-rimmed

glasses. With a long face, distant twinkle in his brown eyes, and a lanky frame not yet gone to fat, Smythe resembled a young Richard Cr  nna.

"Finally, Matilda was perfected. She was the greatest, kindest computer ever made. I really liked the way Matilda turned out. But I had to nurture her and make certain she was filled with goodness. A computer in the wrong hands, well, you know about that, that's why you're here."

Smythe massaged his eyes and draped his hand over Matilda's mechanical shoulders.

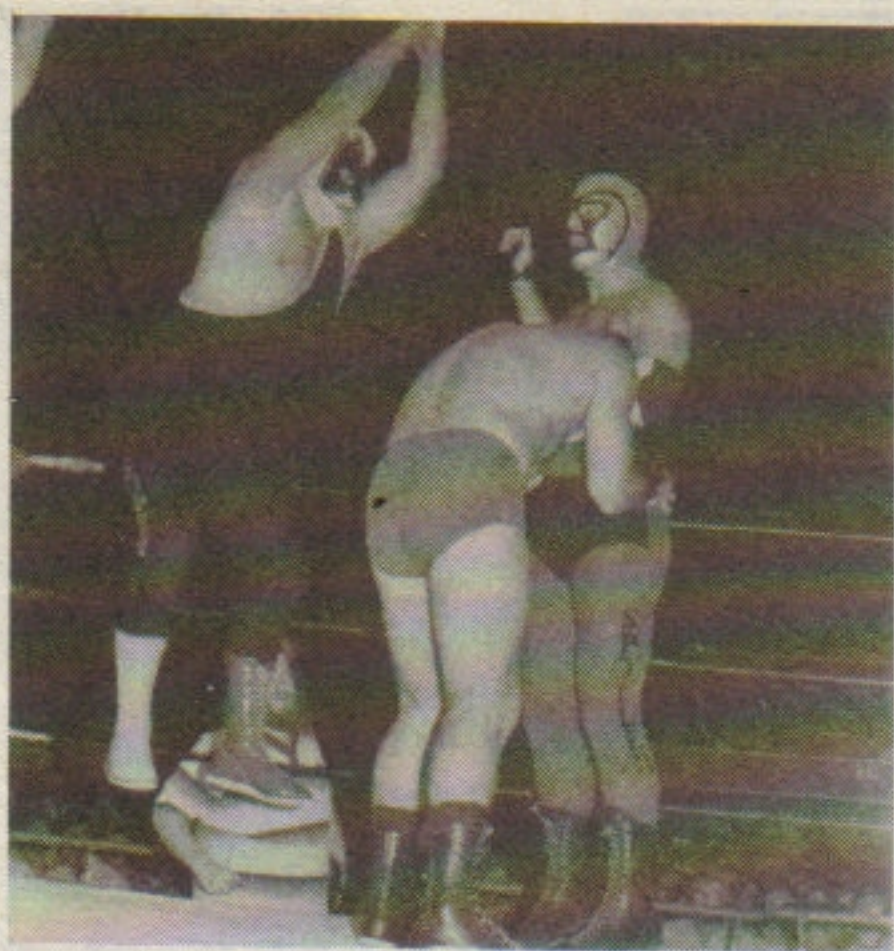
"I programmed Matilda to dispense only kindness. I thought I'd done a pretty fair job. Well, I was wrong. And now

Matilda must die." Smythe blinked back tears. After dabbing his eyes with a silver hankie, Smythe related the awful day Sir Oliver Humperdink came into the offices of Smythe-Matilda Ltd.

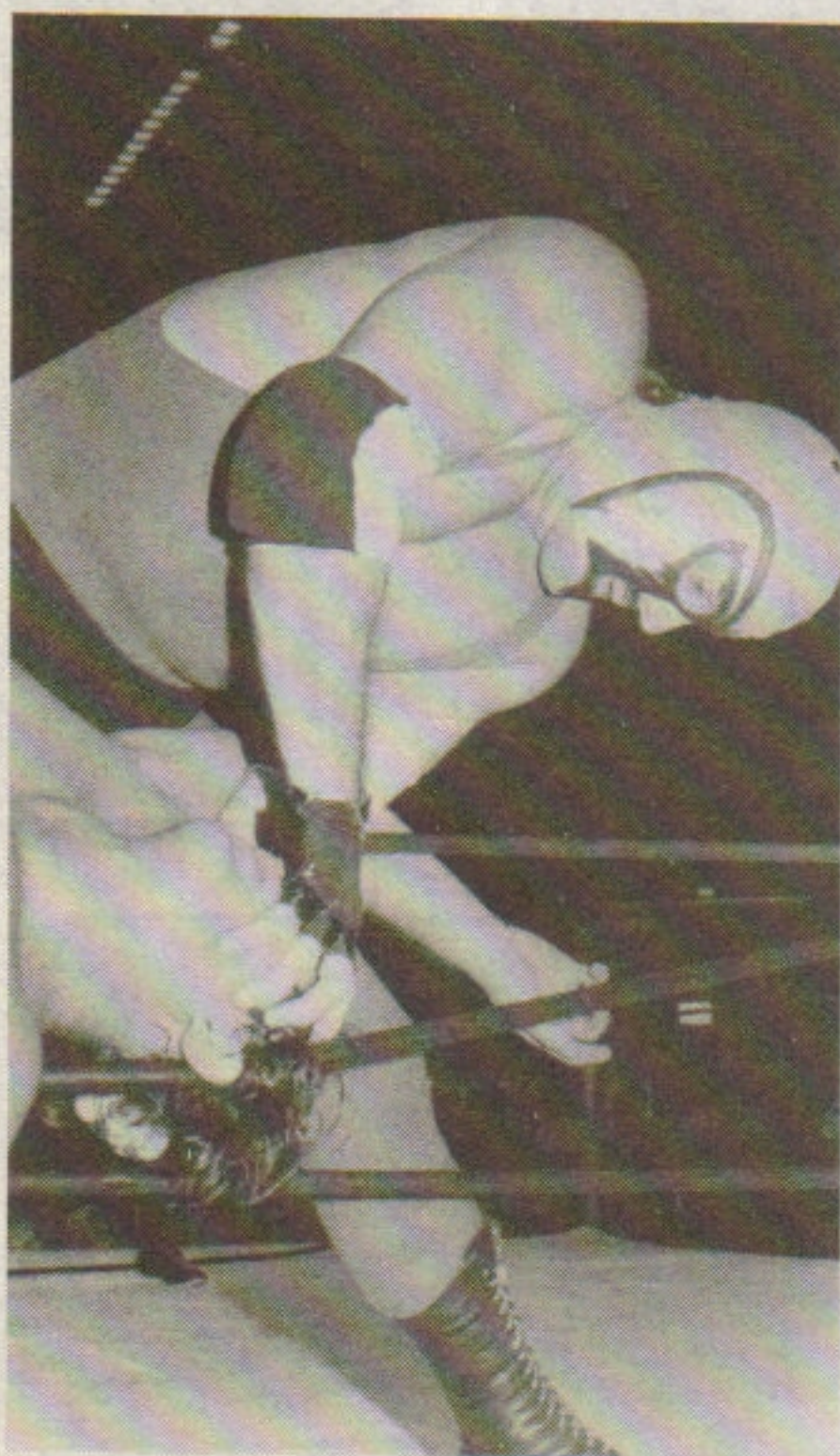
"This fat little man walked into the office and said he needed my services. Business had been slow that day, well, I'll be honest, business had been slow for a few months now. Economy hurts private computer companies, too, you know."

"Humperdink said he needed a match-up of personalities. He said he was a professional wrestling manager. I don't know much about wrestling and I thought it a little odd that such a

(Continued on page 52)



Super Destroyer and Spoiler double-team Jerry Brisco as Sir Oliver Humperdink looks on (top). The dastardly Spoiler chokes Jack Brisco (above) and applies a brain claw on Jerry (below). Jack comes to his brother's aid, but the damage is already done (right).



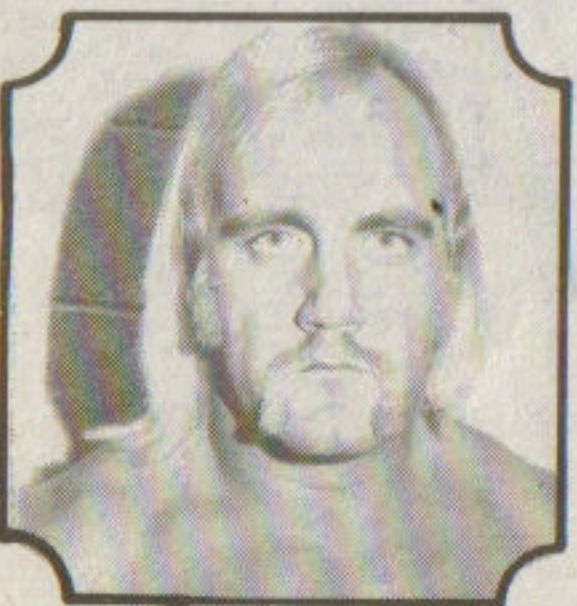
INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters,
And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wrestling Federation



Champion:
BOB BACKLUND



1—HULK HOGAN

American Wrestling Association



Champion:
VERNE GAGNE



1—NICK BOCKWINKEL

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:
HARLEY RACE



1—GREG VALENTINE

Most Popular Wrestlers

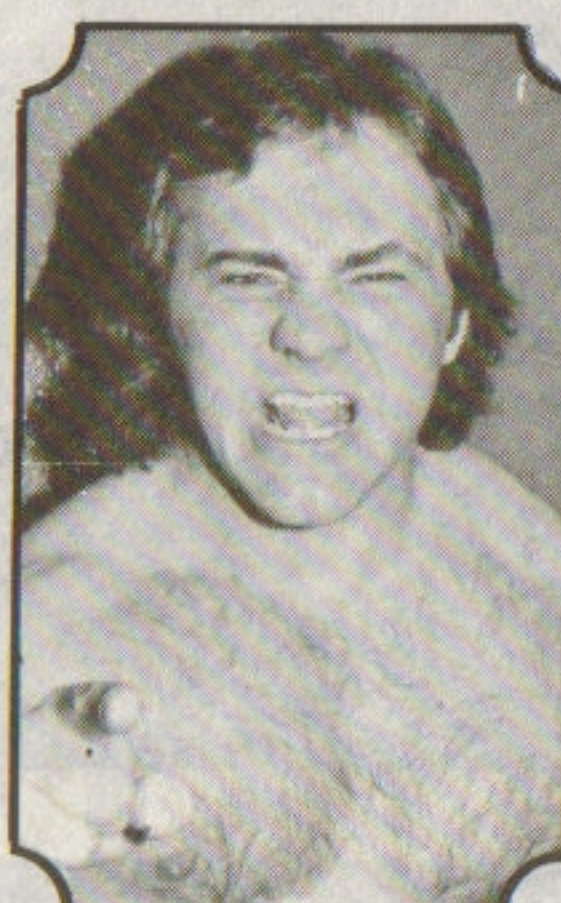


1—ANDRE THE GIANT



2—BRUNO
SAMMARTINO

Most Hated Wrestlers

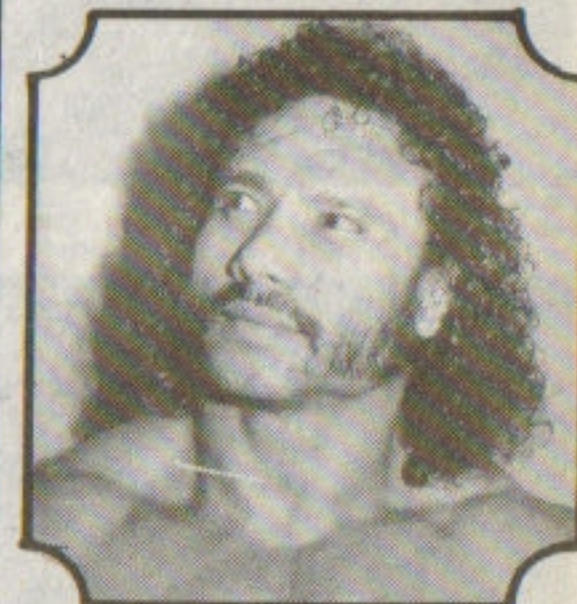


1—LARRY ZBYSZKO

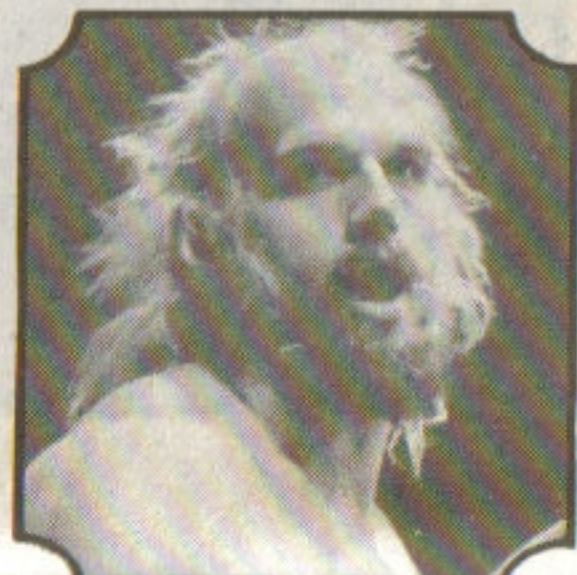


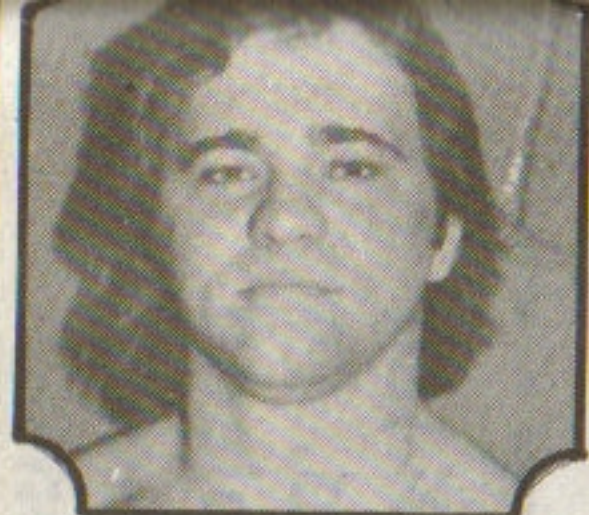
2—ABDULLAH
THE BUTCHER

Tag Teams



1—RAY STEVENS &
JIMMY SNUKA





2—LARRY ZBYSZKO



3—KEN PATERA



4—PAT PATTERSON

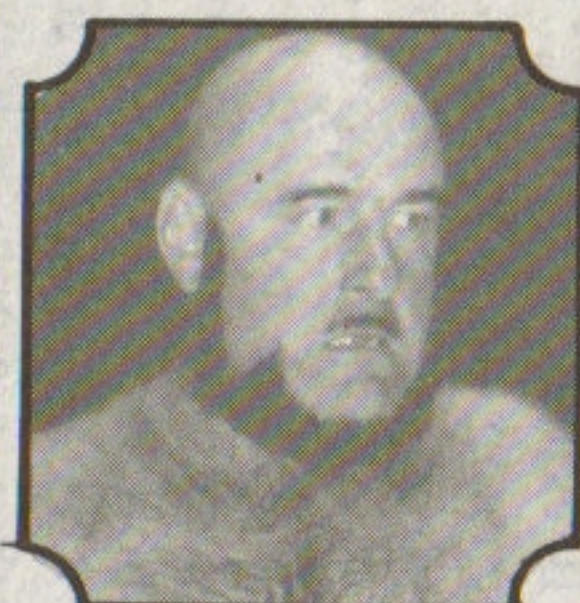
5—PEDRO MORALES
6—IVAN PUTSKI
7—TONY ATLAS
8—THE HANGMAN
9—RICK MARTEL
10—TONY GAREA



2—CRUSHER
BLACKWELL

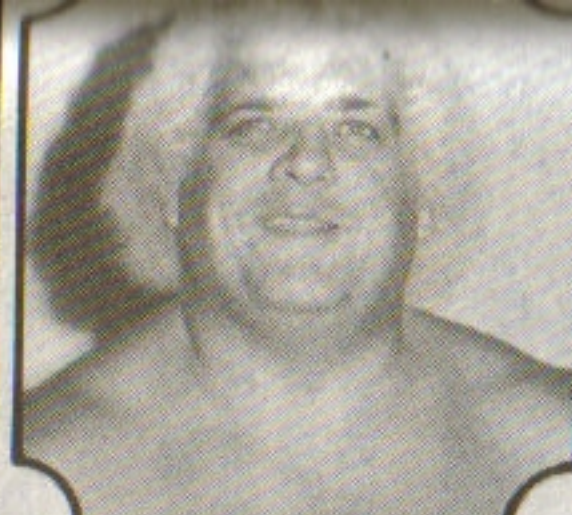


3—CRUSHER



4—MAD DOG VACHON

5—DINO BRAVO
6—JESSE VENTURA
7—TITO SANTANA
8—GREG GAGNE
9—JOHN STUDD
10—ADRIAN ADONIS



2—DUSTY RHODES



3—TED DiBIASE

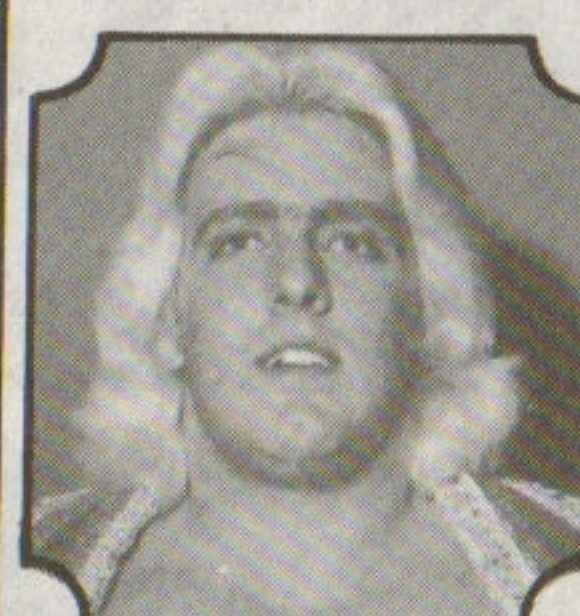


4—HUSSEIN ARAB

5—DENNIS CONDREY
6—KEN PATERA
7—DICK SLATER
8—MR. WRESTLING II
9—BUGSY McGRAW
10—GINO HERNANDEZ



3—DUSTY RHODES



4—RIC FLAIR

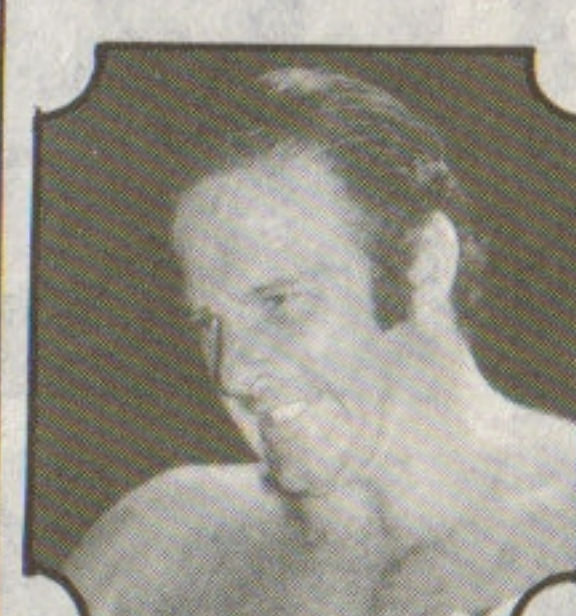


5—BOB BACKLUND

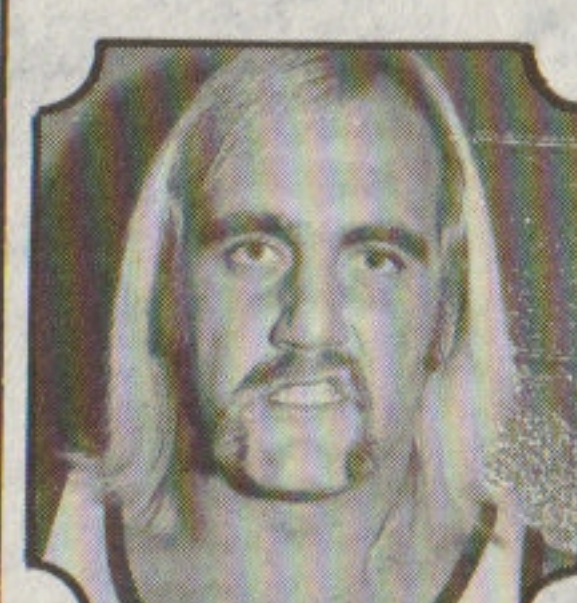
6—MR. WRESTLING II
7—MIL MASCARAS
8—IVAN PUTSKI
9—RICK STEAMBOAT
10—TED DiBIASE



3—KEN PATERA

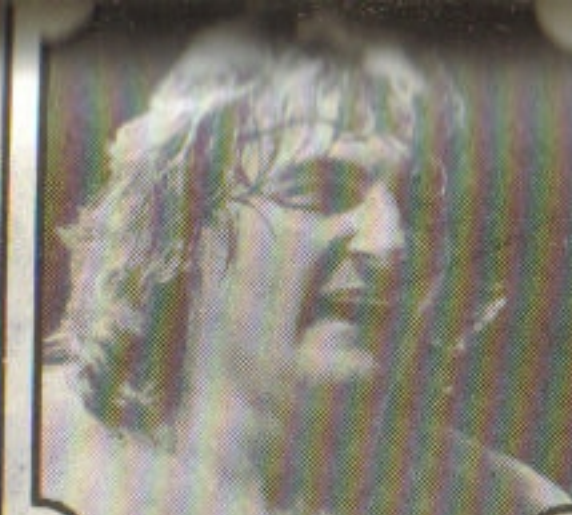


4—MARK LEWIN

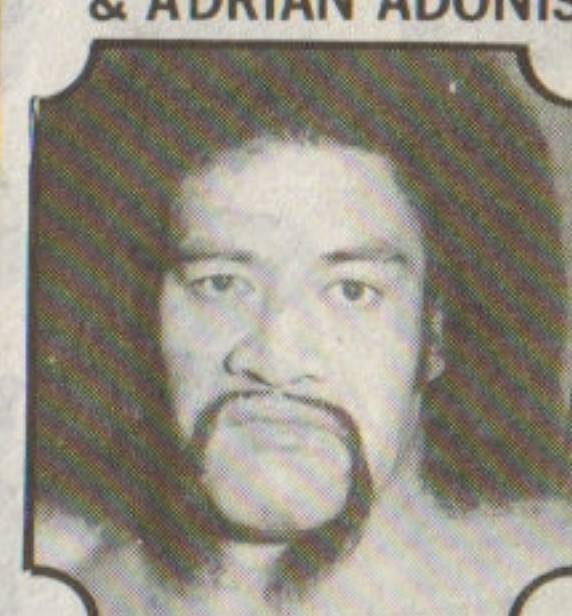


5—HULK HOGAN

6—NICK
BOCKWINKEL
7—HARLEY RACE
8—GREG VALENTINE
9—KILLER BROOKS
10—MICHAEL HAYES



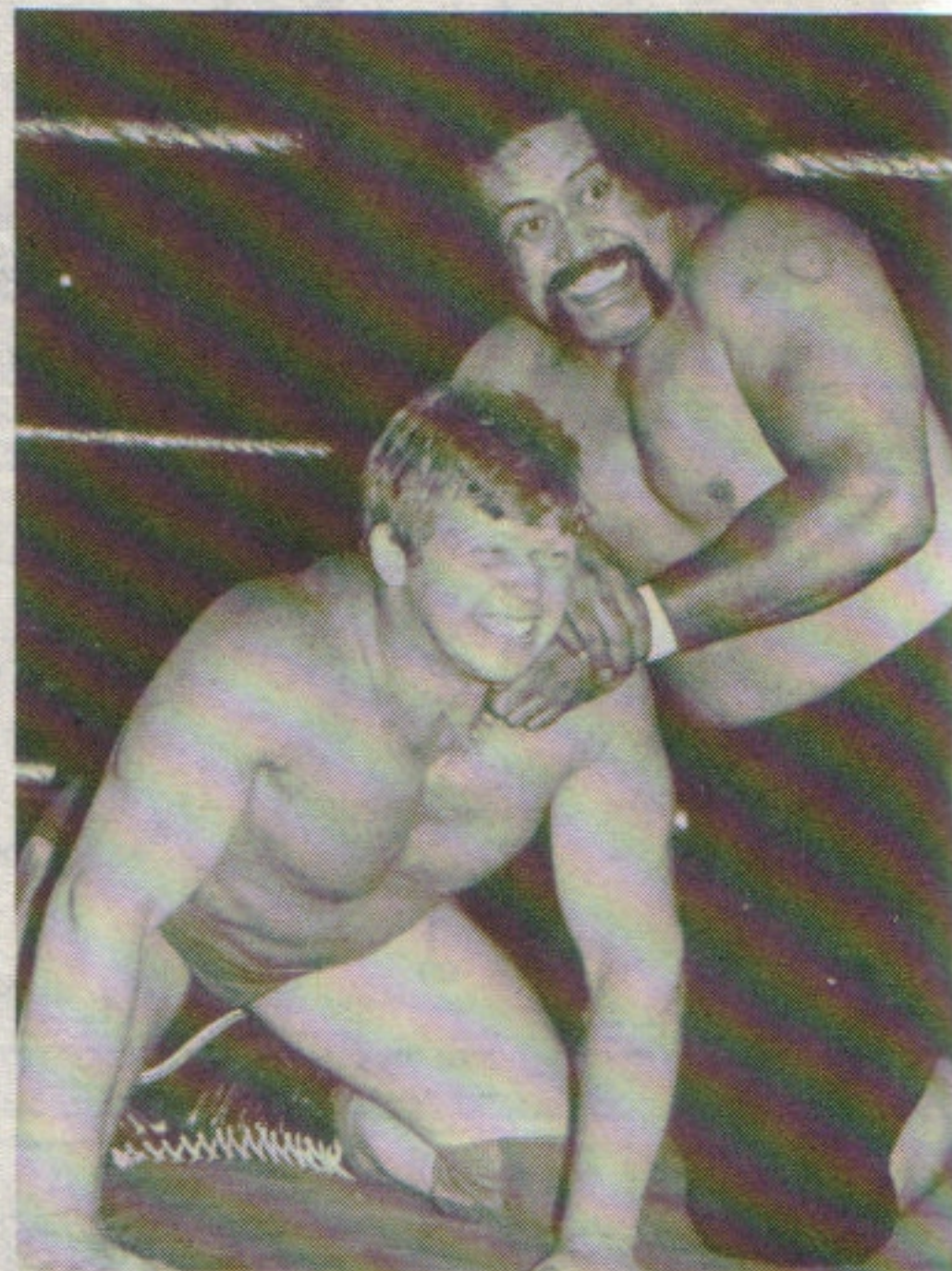
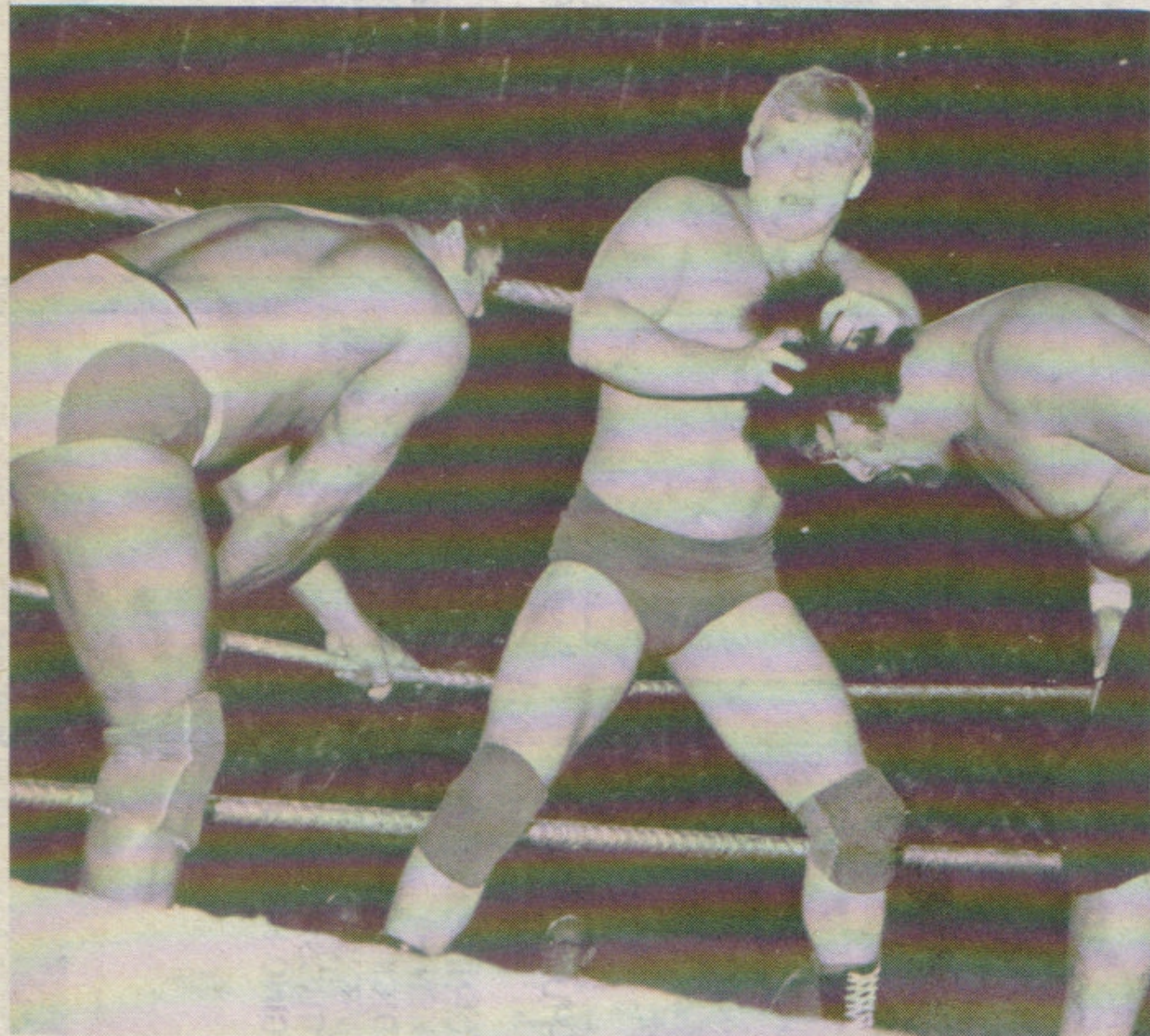
2—JESSE VENTURA
& ADRIAN ADONIS



3—THE SAMOANS

4—THE ASSASSINS
5—IVAN KOLOFF &
NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
6—TERRY GORDY &
BUDDY ROBERTS
7—JACK & JERRY
BRISCO
8—RICK STEAMBOAT
& JAY YOUNGBLOOD
9—KERRY VON ERICH
& EL HALCON
10—VERNE GAGNE &
MAD DOG VACHON

THE TRUTH BEHIND BACKLUND-MORALES TAG TEAM FIASCO



Backlund holds Afa in place, giving Morales a chance to get into the action (left). Afa sinks his fingers into Bob's neck muscles (above).

WHEN IS A winner not a winner? Ask Pedro Morales. He's learning more about the question every day.

Pedro won the WWF tag team title partnered with Bob Backlund. He and Bob beat the Samoans, a team many feared were the most dangerous in tag team history. Everyone assumed this was the start of a new golden era in wrestling.

The era was certainly the shortest in wrestling history. Backlund is also the WWF champion, one of the three most prestigious titles in wrestling. His first obligation is to defend that title. Bob believed he could find time to defend both titles honorably. Then his manager, Arnold Skoaland, reminded him there are only 24 hours in a day.

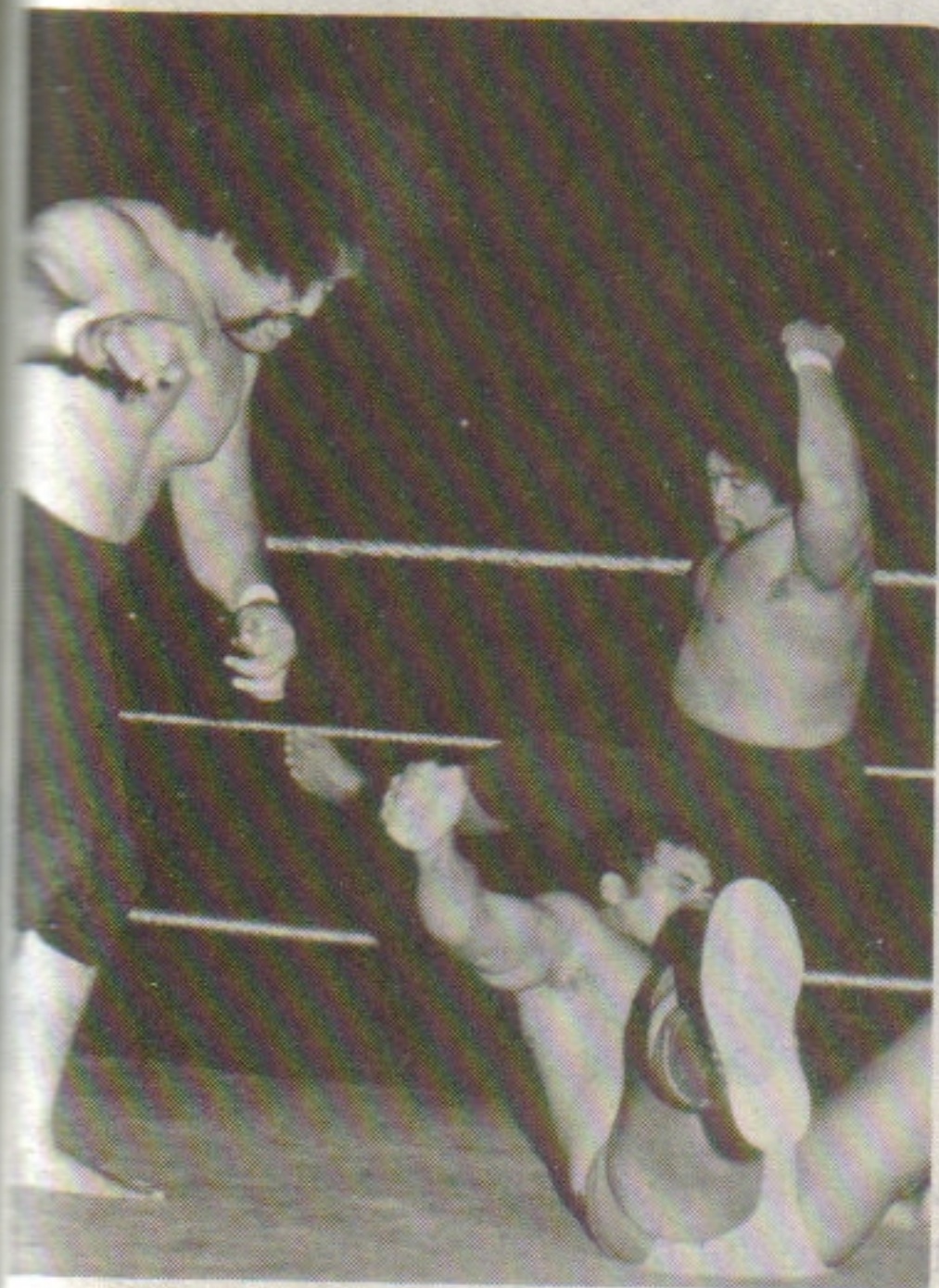
Within the week, Backlund

announced he was giving up his share of the tag team title. In perhaps the hardest decision of his life, Bob agreed that he couldn't defend both titles equally well. It became obvious almost immediately that he'd have to surrender the tag team belt. Pedro said he understood.

Morales was given the option of choosing a new partner and retaining his title. Instead, Morales

When Bob Backlund and Pedro Morales seized the WWF tag team title from The Samoans, all wrestling rejoiced. In particular, Morales. But when manager Arnold Skoaland persuaded Backlund that he could not defend both belts, Morales was left out in the cold. How could this happen?

THE ES



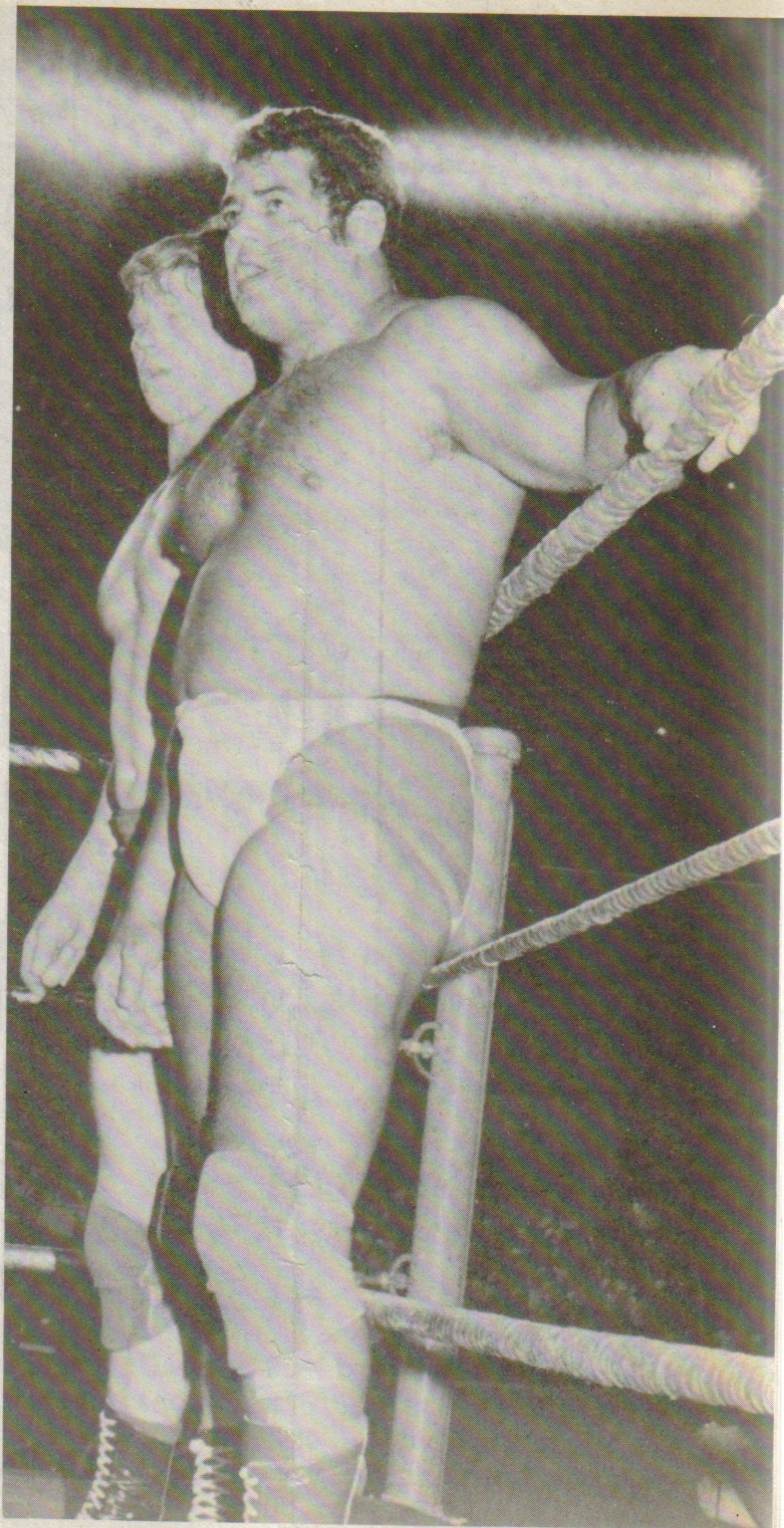
The Samoans, who know or care little about the rules, double-team Morales (above). Bob and Pedro anxiously await the start of the second fall (right).

said, "The team that won was Pedro Morales and Bob Backlund. If we're not together, then there are no champions. There should be a tournament to decide the eventual champions."

That's an honorable way of handling it. Most wrestlers would have chosen a partner, retained the title, and then claimed the new team was even better than the old. Morales has too much respect for the fans to do that. After his astounding victory, he has to go back to square one. And his partner is the one who put him there.

Most guys would be bitter. Aside from the honor, the WWF

(Continued on page 54)





THE STEWARDESS ASKED her huge passenger if he wanted anything. Ivan Koloff smiled and replied, "No, I've got everything I need."

Koloff lifted his briefcase to his lap and opened it. Inside, bundles of diagrams and notes were placed in a special order. All of them were concerned with one topic: the destruction of Mil Mascaras.

For maybe the 100th time, Koloff went over his notes. Each one recounted a first hand experience against Mascaras. The maneuvers had worked against Mascaras before. At the bottom lay five typewritten pages stapled together. They

WHY IVA

were the final strategy Koloff was to use against Mascaras. It was devised by Sir Oliver Humperdink. According to the ruthless manager, the plan was foolproof.

After going over his notes, Koloff lay back. He smiled. It was his honor to be chosen to destroy Mil Mascaras. They were counting on him, all the most ruthless grapplers in Florida. They'd heard Mascaras was thinking of coming to their state. As Dick Slater said, "We've got things going our way now. We don't need that Mexican migrant to ruin them."

They all agreed. Mascaras has to be stopped before he started. One of them had to get to Mil before he arrived. After much deliberation, they chose Koloff to represent them. Selflessly, they taught the Russian Bear their best moves, their most elaborate strategies. They were leaving nothing to chance.



Koloff slams Mascaras in the back of the head with a double fist (above left) and does the same with a metal chair (above right).

IVAN KOLOFF WAS SENT TO DESTROY MIL MASCARAS

It doesn't take too much imagination to figure why they feared Mascaras' arrival. Mil had bested them all at one time or another. If he came to Florida, the rulebreakers' stranglehold on Florida wrestling would be broken. They weren't about to

take that chance.

At first, they thought Mascaras could be scared off. They publicly announced their plan. If Mil knew he was a marked man, they reasoned, he would find some other place to wrestle. Koloff wouldn't have to climb

through the ropes to get Mascaras running.

However, that hope was quickly dashed. Mil sent a letter to Koloff asking him to name a time and place. Cursing, Ivan told him Houston and gave a

(Continued on page 56)

The immense success of Mil Mascaras infuriates all jealous rulebreakers. Finally, the rulebreakers put their heads together and concocted a devious plot designed to destroy Mil Mascaras. All they had to do was impliment the strategy in the ring. That's why Ivan Koloff went to Texas

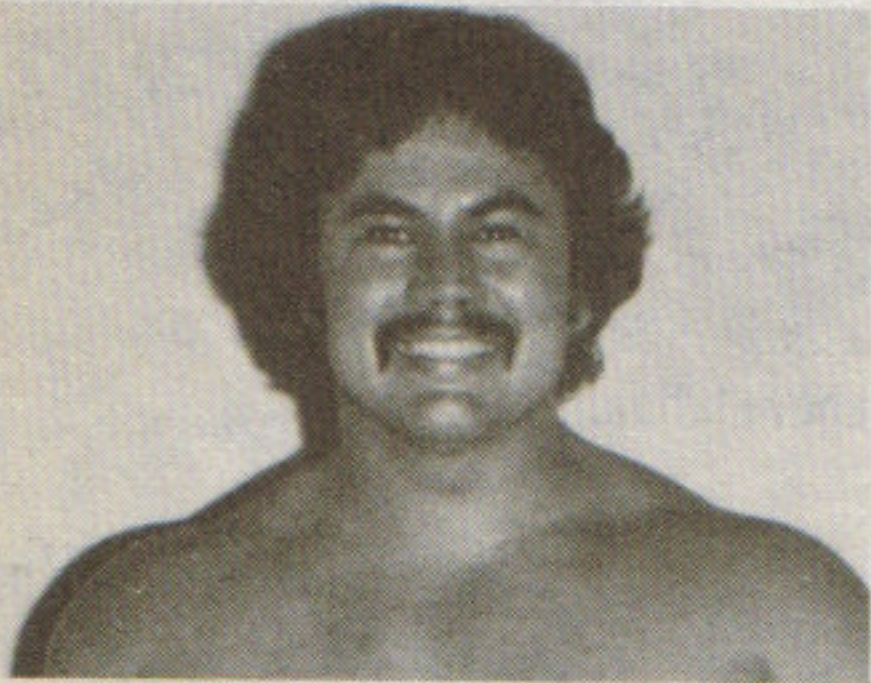
NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

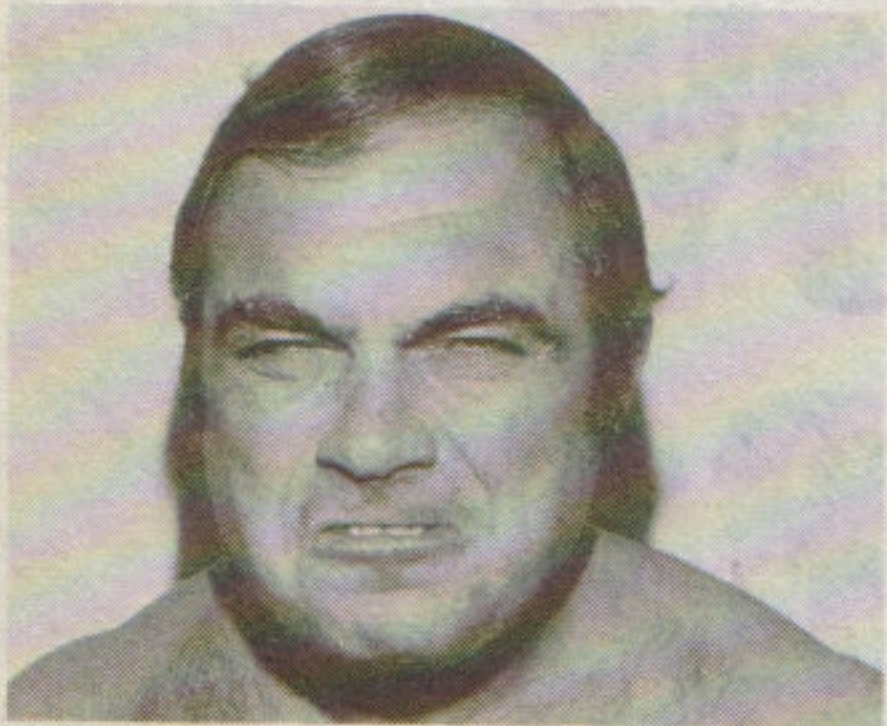
Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

SAN BERNADINO, CA

By Jim Donis



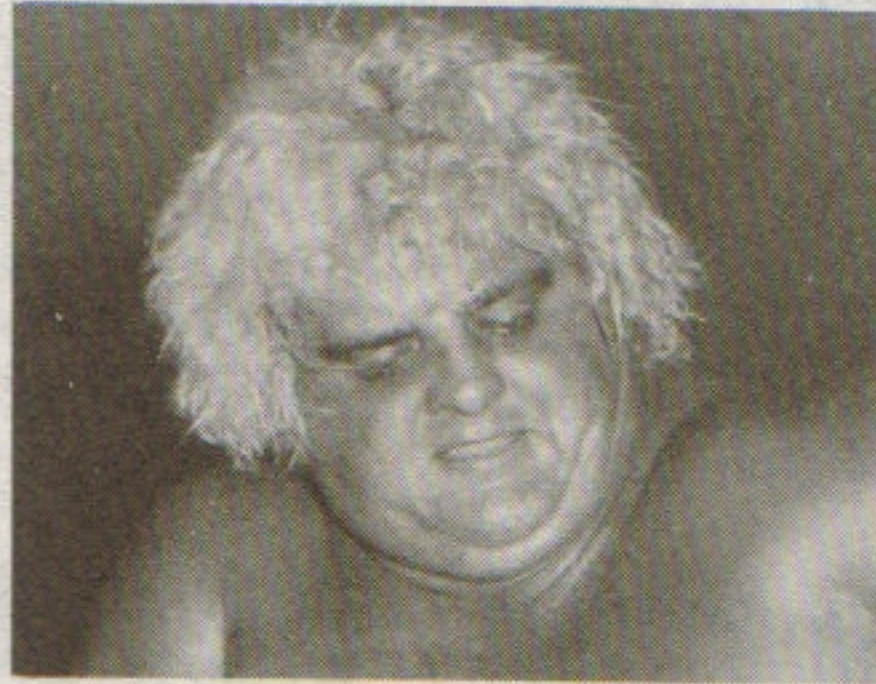
**ALBERTO MADRIL
vs.
JOHN TOLOS**



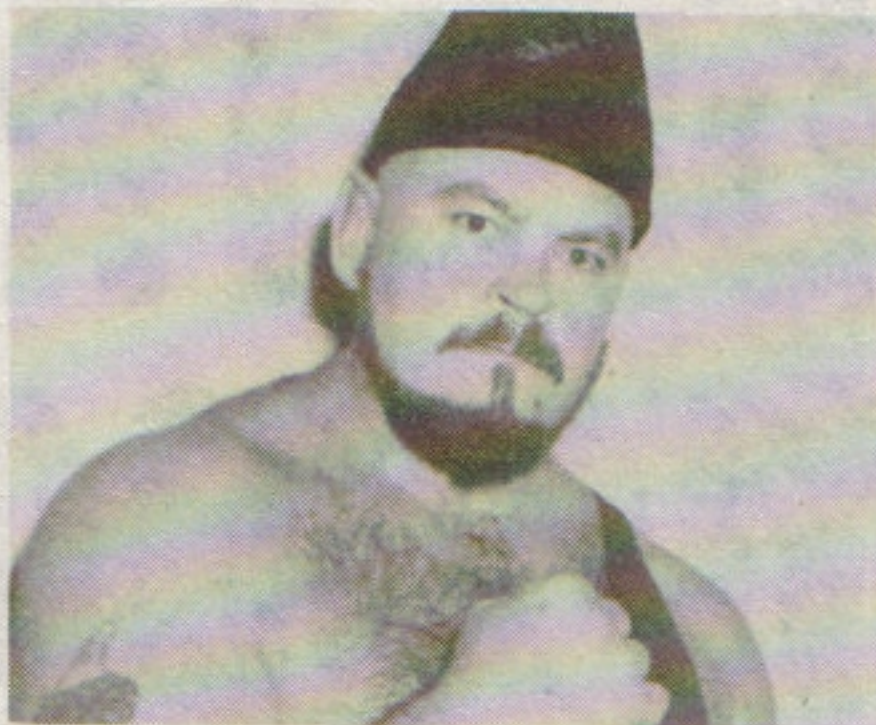
The main event pitted Maniac John Tolos against scientific star Alberto Madril. The minute Madril stepped into the ring, he began battering Tolos from one end of the ring to the other. Using brass knuckles, Madril opened several cuts on Tolos' face. Tolos retaliated with a foreign object and the match turned into a wild brawl. When Madril refused to break a chokehold, he was disqualified. Fans wondered why Madril went wild, completely out of character. There is a good explanation. One week earlier, Tolos choked Madril's mother into semi-consciousness as she sat at ringside.

LAKELAND, FL

By Ron Lendowski



**DUSTY RHODES
vs.
IVAN KOLOFF**



In the main event, Dusty Rhodes took on Ivan Koloff. According to the contract, if Rhodes lost, he would shave his head. But if Rhodes won, Sir Oliver Humperdink, Koloff's manager, would be Rhodes' valet for 30 days. Action flowed in and out of the ring until Rhodes rammed Koloff's head into the ringpost. Koloff knocked the referee out of the ring. Slater rushed in to help the bloodied Koloff, but Rhodes smashed Slater and vanquished Koloff.

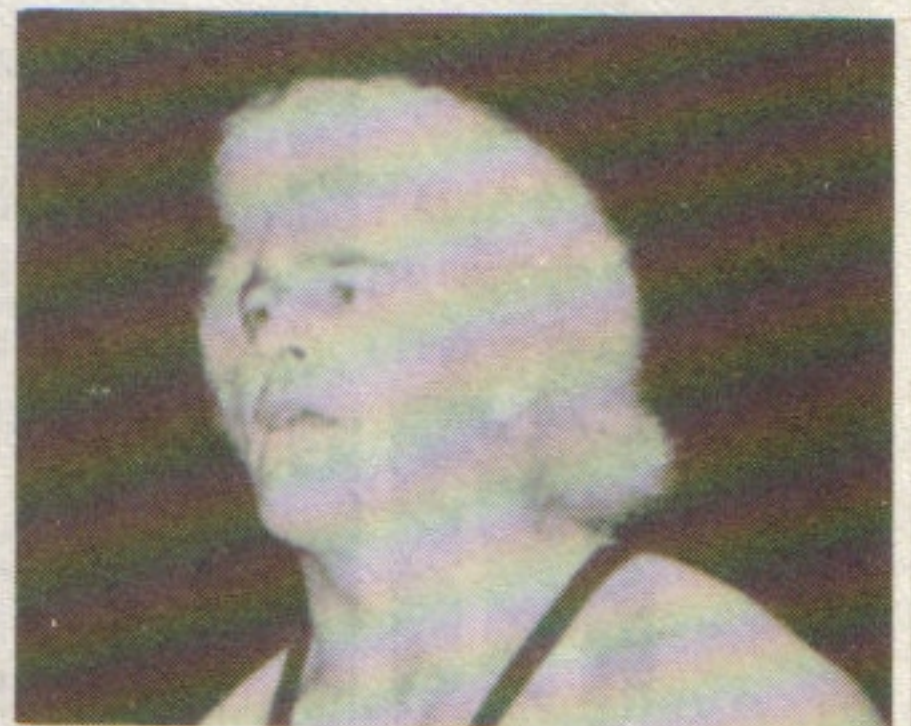
OTHER BOUTS: Buggy McGraw beat Nikolai Volkoff . . . Barry Windham beat Lord Al Hays . . . Dick Murdoch bashed Dick Slater.

BOSTON, MA

By Mark Marrana



**BOB BACKLUND
vs.
KEN PATERA**



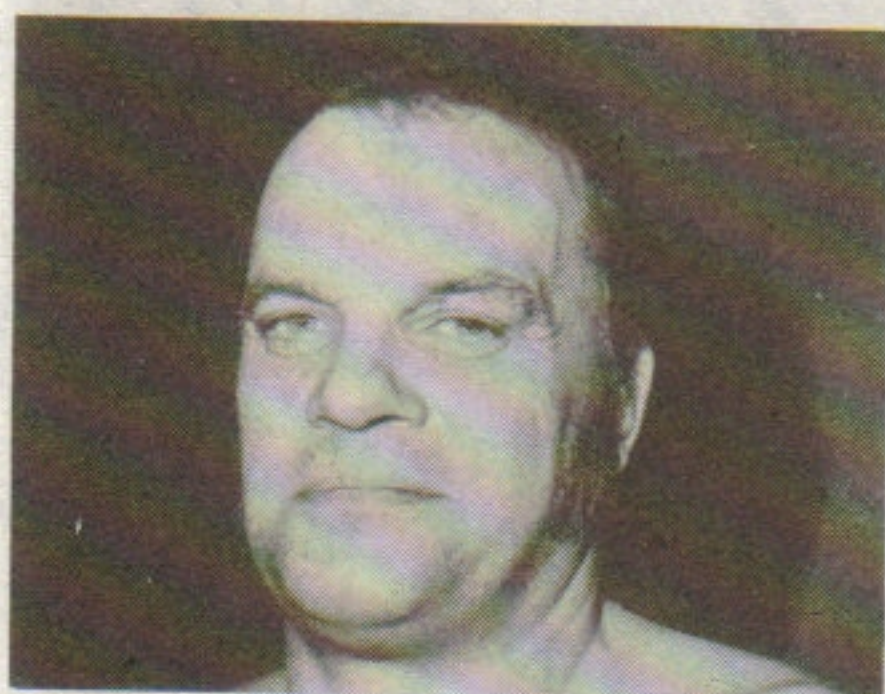
A return match between WWF champion Bob Backlund and Ken Patera degenerated into a total brawl. Backlund lost his temper at Patera's illegal tactics. Time and again, Patera tried to turn clean maneuvers into filthy tricks. But Backlund wouldn't let Patera win by cheating. Backlund fought back like a wild man. Still, Patera's evil experience enabled him to knock Backlund out of the ring, where the young champ was counted out. So Patera won the match, but not the belt.

OTHER BOUTS: The Hangman defeated Dominic DeNucci . . . Pedro Morales stomped Tor Kamata . . . Rene Goulet halted Baron Scicluna by disqualification.

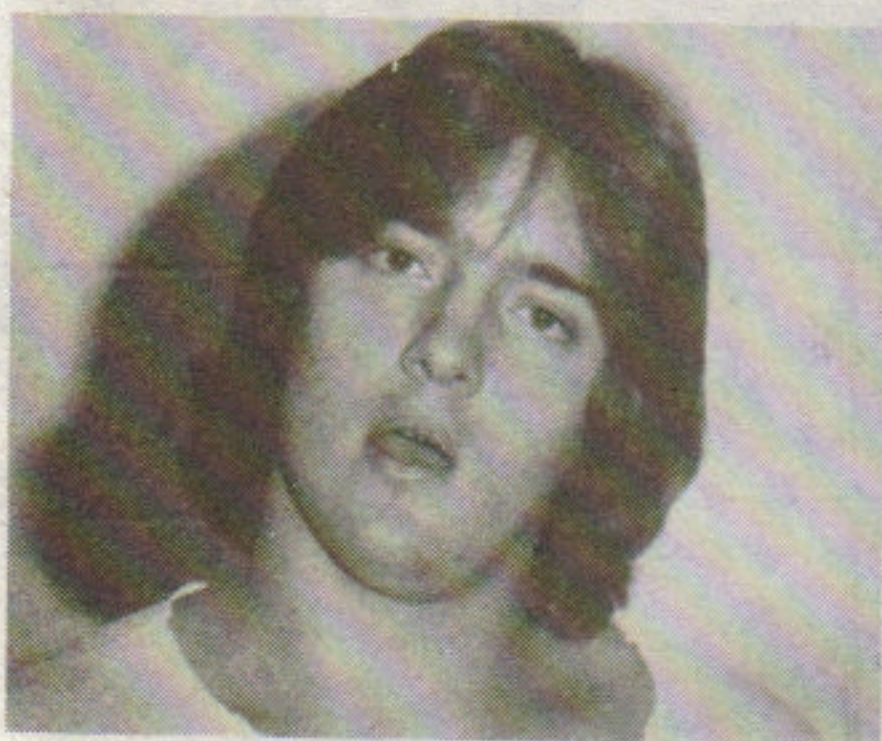
WRESTLING CAPITALS



PORT ARTHUR, TX By Nolan Hicks



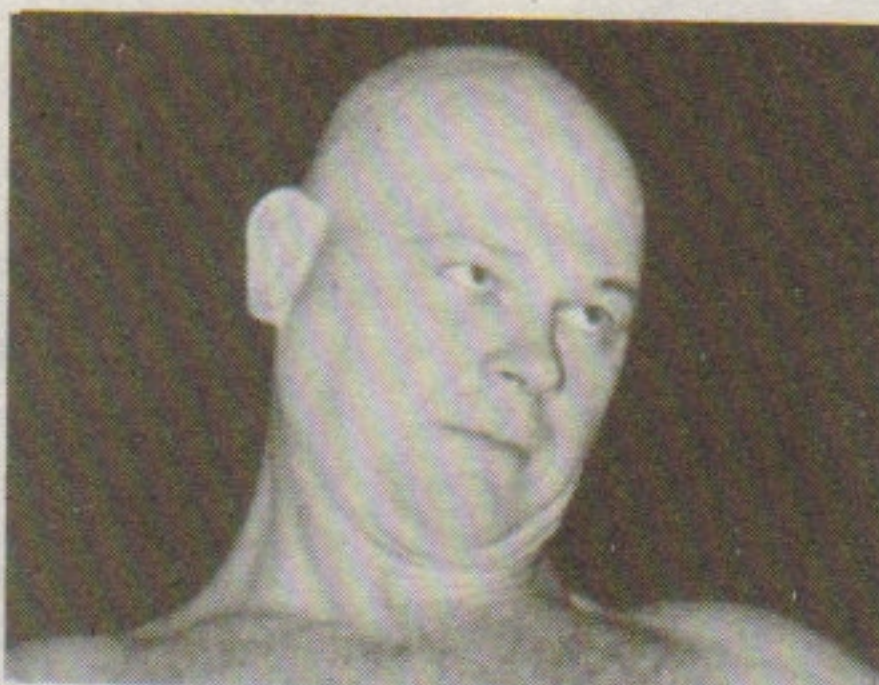
**STAN STASIAK
vs.
GINO HERNANDEZ**



Newly crowned Texas Brass Knuckles champion Stan Stasiak defended his title against Gino Hernandez in a best two-out-of-three falls match. Gino won the first fall and Stan won the second. But the third fall turned into utter war. Both battled outside the ring, using any weapon at their disposal. After a long burst of bashing and stomping, both Stasiak and Hernandez were counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: Jose Lothario defeated El Gran Markus . . . Tiger Conway Jr. upset Killer Brooks . . . Don Diamond stopped Mr. Hito . . . Tiger Conway Jr. and Don Diamond beat Mr. Hito and Killer Brooks in tag team action.

AUGUSTA, GA By Steve Hendrix



**BARON VON RASCHKE
vs.
STEVE KEIRN**



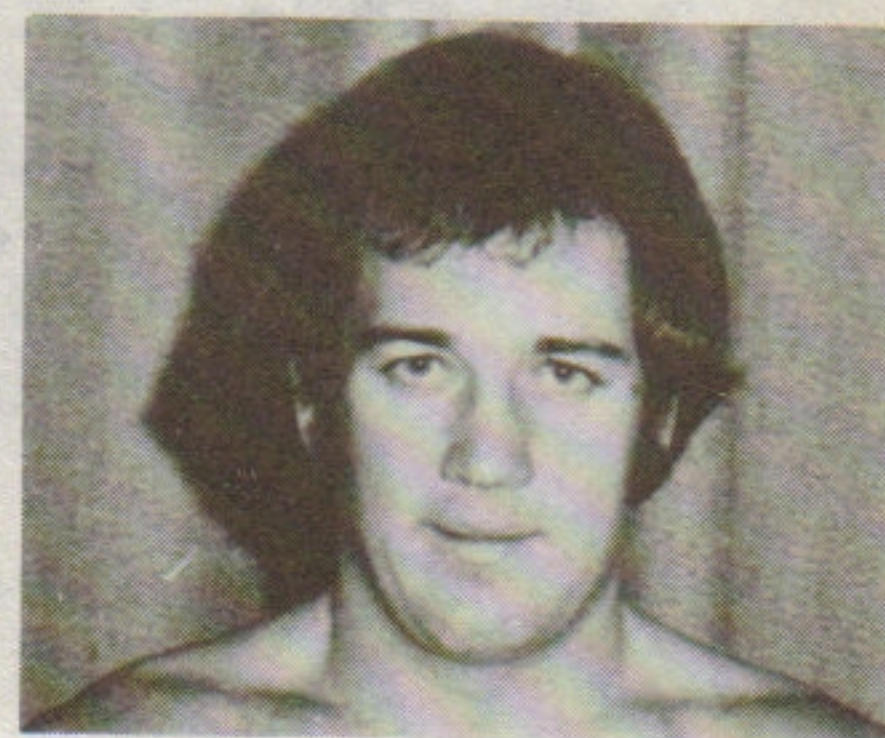
Baron Von Raschke defended his Georgia Heavyweight championship against Georgia newcomer Steve Keirn. The match was a classic from beginning to end. Champion Von Raschke continually tried to use his famous brain claw on Keirn. Steve demonstrated brilliance in avoiding the maneuver. Keirn used the figure-four leglock to weaken Von Raschke's legs and finally Keirn clamped a sleeper hold on Von Raschke. Too weak to fight back, Von Raschke succumbed, and Georgia had a new champion.

OTHER BOUTS: The Masked Assassins retained their Georgia tag team title against Mr. Wrestling II and Stan Hansen by running out of the ring.

MILWAUKEE, WI By Michael Mitchell



**BOBBY HEENAN
vs.
GREG GAGNE**



Bobby Heenan lost a "suit" match to Greg Gagne. For several weeks now, AWA fans have been calling Heenan "Weasel." The loser of this match had to hop around the ring in a weasel suit. Gagne vanquished Heenan, but the notorious liar refused to put on the suit. So Greg put Heenan out with the sleeperhold, slipped the weasel suit on Heenan and woke up the rule-breaker. Needless to say, Heenan was quite upset to awake and find himself in a weasel outfit.

OTHER BOUTS: Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura won by disqualification over Angelo Mosca and Mad Dog Vachon . . . Both Nick Bockwinkel and Dino Bravo were counted out.

COMEBACK



For five years, Nick Bockwinkel wore the AWA belt. It was a reign characterized by controversy and success. But everything must end, and Bockwinkel's reign was no exception. He lost the title to Verne Gagne in Chicago. Now Bockwinkel begins that long, arduous climb back to the top

IT MUST BEGIN somewhere, sometime, like it had to end somewhere, sometime. Perhaps Nick Bockwinkel thought his title reign could last forever. Certainly, it seemed that way at times as the former AWA champion swallowed and out-foxed opponents from one end of the territory to the next.

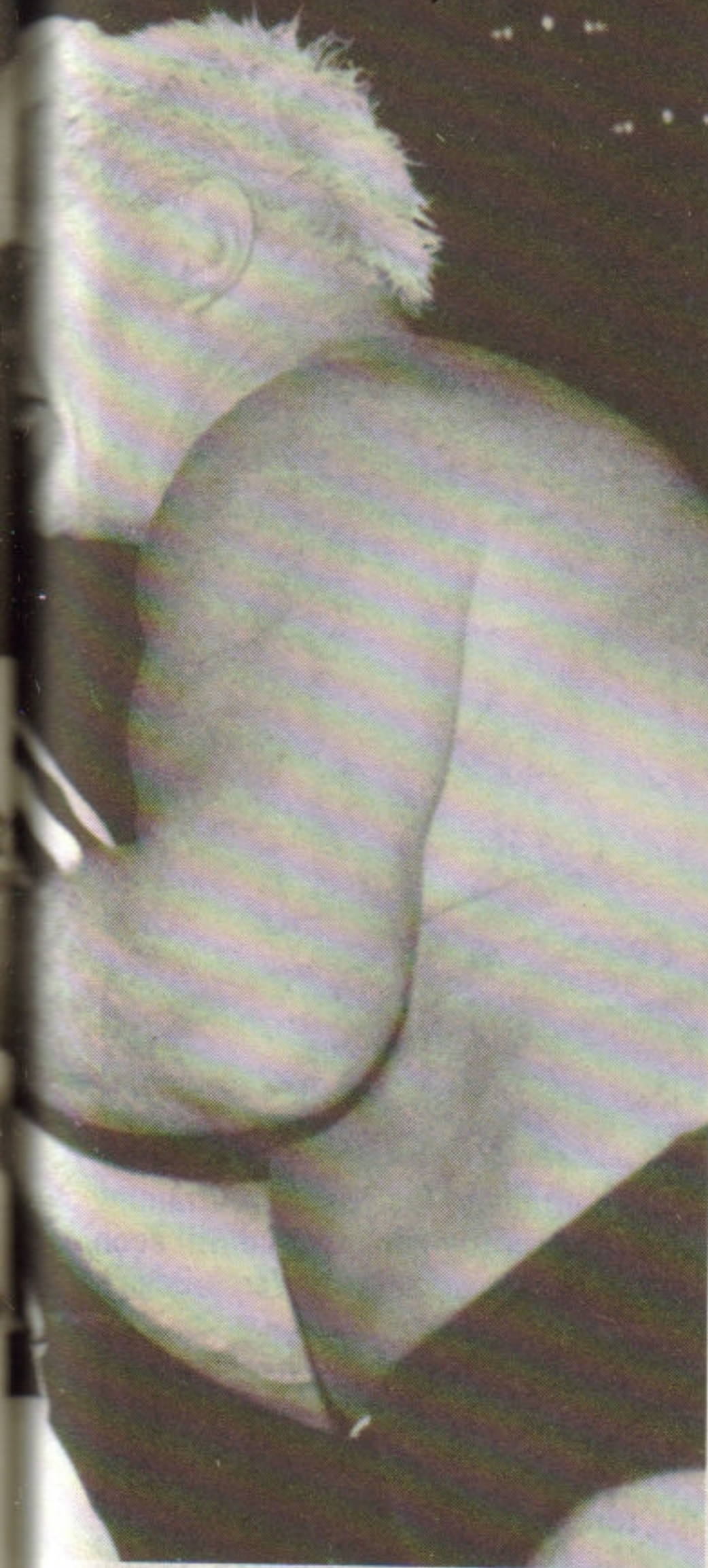
But Verne Gagne wouldn't be denied forever. His long-awaited revenge found fruition at Chicago's Comiskey Park on July 18. Now the AWA had a new champion.

But this isn't a story about Gagne. In fact, this story goes deeper than wrestling. It concerns

one man's remarkable determination and relentless ambition to avoid obscurity and wipe out the bitter memory of an evening he wasn't good enough.

Comeback. The word possesses evil connotations. It implies someone has fallen from an exalted status and must work their way

ACK!



NICK BOCKWINKEL'S LONG ROAD BACK TO THE TITLE

this tall, muscular man exerting himself on every mechanical contraption known to man.

"Sure I want it. Think I'd be pushing myself like this if I didn't care. I care. I want to show something to those big-mouths out there who always said Nick Bockwinkel didn't have heart or guts. Yeah, I want to close some mouths and demonstrate my limitless genius and capacity to surmount all obstacles, even a cheat like Gagne."

A new character trait flickers across Bockwinkel's handsome visage: bitterness.

"Notice how people pounce on me the minute I lose? I lose once, that's all, just once, and already they're up to burying Bockwinkel and all he ever stood for." Bockwinkel slammed the punching bag with his opened hand.

"You don't downgrade entire careers for one tainted loss," snapped Bockwinkel. "But all those bums bad-mouthing me doesn't surprise me. I expected them to pounce on me once the title wasn't mine."

"Throughout my career, they'd been hungering for a chance to say bad things about me. Not that they didn't before, but they just waited like rats on a garbage dump to seize



Many of Nick Bockwinkel's accumulated frustrations erupted in his match against Bruiser.

back. It implies a moment of defeat, of disappointment, of bitter despair.

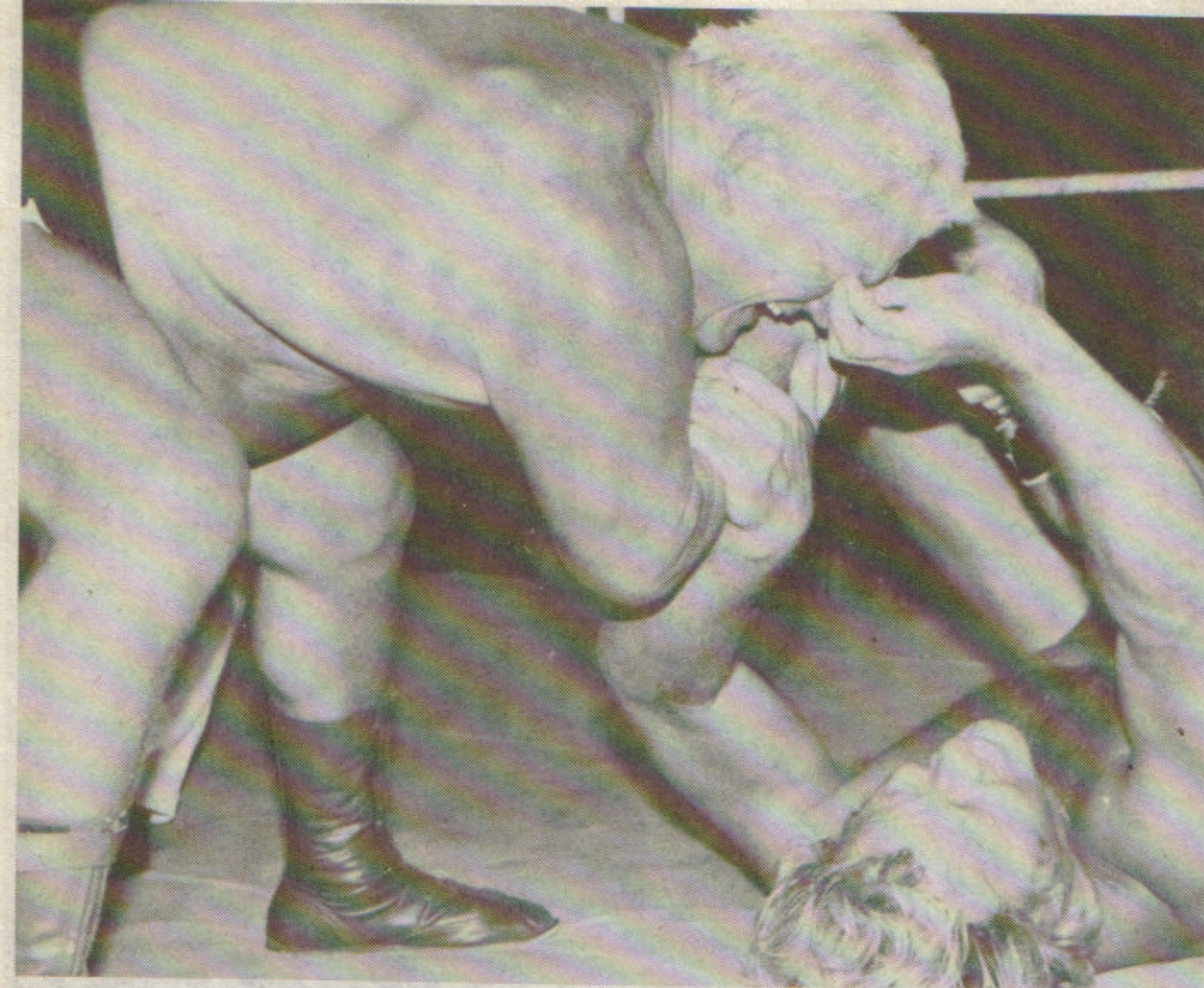
Yet it can also be a true and revealing test of one's inner strength. Suddenly the revering spotlight dims and the crowd disappears and the reporters shuffle to another locker room. Suddenly you're all alone, confronting the ultimate question: How much do you want the title back?

"A lot," said Bockwinkel, leaning his sweating body against the heavy bag. It was 10 at night and the gym was deserted save for

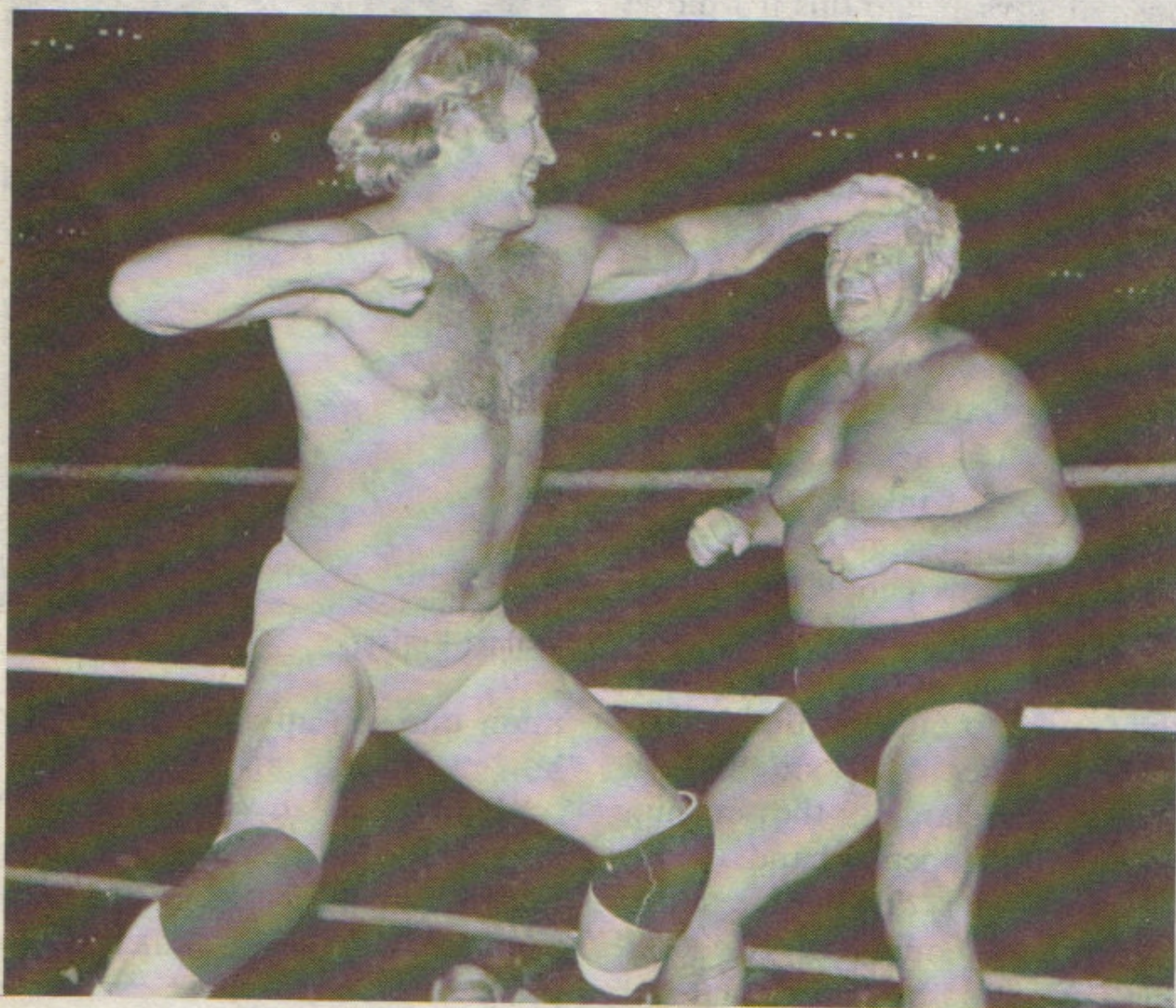
upon one slip-up so they can say how overrated I am.

"How can anyone say that? After all I've achieved? I can't understand how stupid humans can be. Well, I've got something to prove to them."

Or to himself? Despite Bockwinkel's assertions that Gagne cheated his way to victory, that loss gnaws at him. Bockwinkel always perceived himself as more than mortal, several cuts above even the best wrestlers in both skill and intellect. To swallow a loss to a man he so consistently put down



Even from a prone position, Bockwinkel continues his brutal offensive as he rips at Bruiser's eyes (above). Nick moves Bruiser into the ropes and reaches back for a tremendous right (below). Bockwinkel seemed to be driven strictly by emotions in his first match after losing the AWA title.



galls Bockwinkel.

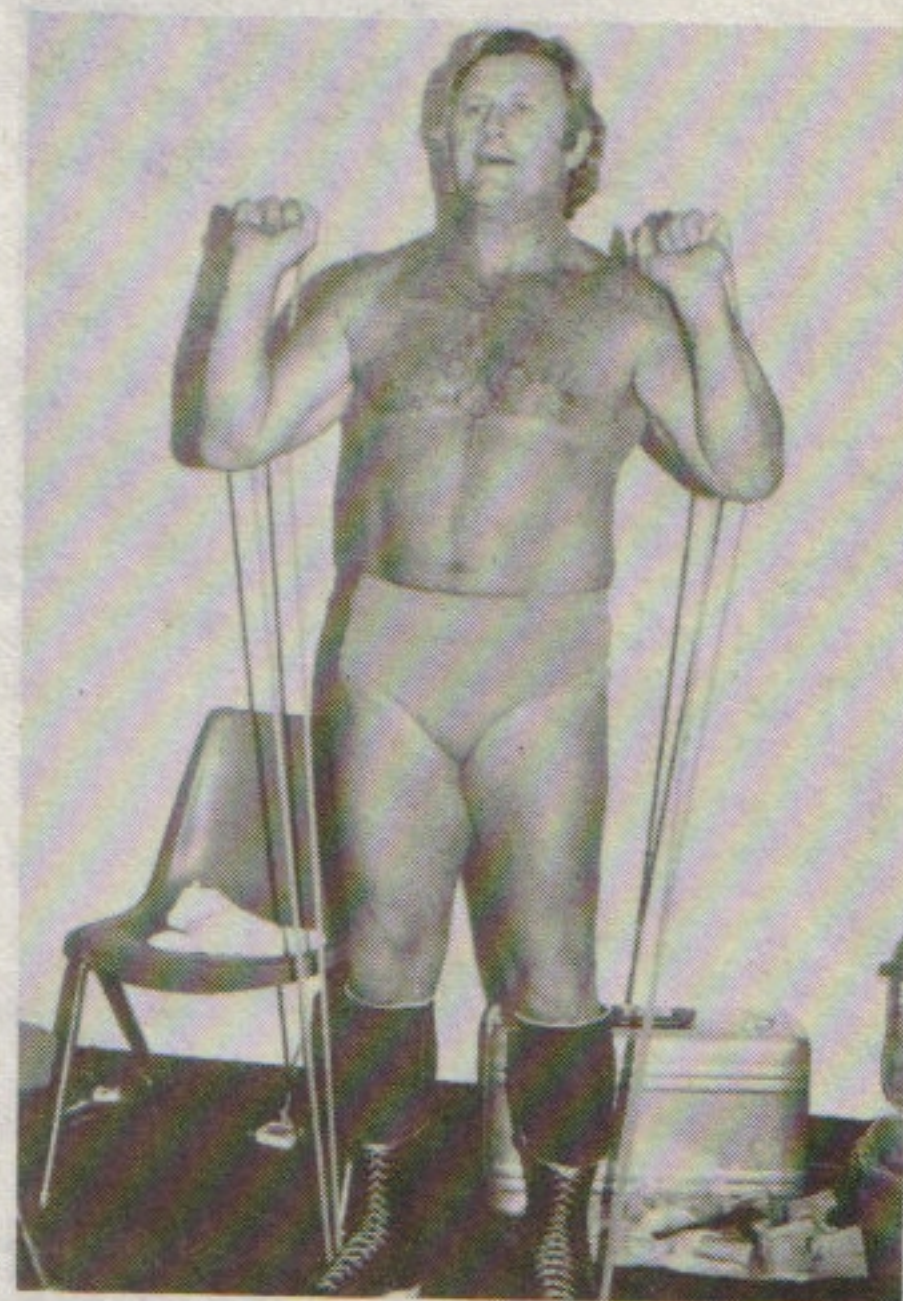
But Bockwinkel must avoid a common problem most in his position slip into. Bockwinkel must simply go back to whatever he did all those successful years instead of trying to alter his style. It is natural from someone who just

lost his belt to be disappointed and angry. But the overwhelming urge to try too hard can work as powerfully against Bockwinkel as any foe.

In Bockwinkel's first match since losing the title, he met an old nemesis, Bruiser. Bockwinkel's

rage, whether directed at Bruiser, Gagne, or a skeptical public erupted at the opening bell. Nick charged forward like a wild animal and battered Bruiser from ringpost to ringpost.

Still, Bruiser's wily ways enabled him to recover and return to inflict a reciprocal beating on Bockwinkel. Shortly, both battled in and out of the ring, where a double disqualification was assessed.



Nick continues his rigorous training practice with the hope that he will soon be granted a rematch with Verne Gagne.

Now Bockwinkel is no stranger to brawls. But this brawl was different. Lacking in his game was his temper, the arrogance, he used to defend his title for five years. Missing was the shrewd guile he used to upend confident foes. Bockwinkel behaved like a wild man, absent of any of that distinguishing intelligence which earned him the grudging admiration of millions.

"I just wanted to beat his ugly face into a bloody pulp," snarled Bockwinkel. "I wasn't interested in style today. I just wanted to smash him into the ground. Besides, even if I display the most brilliant maneuvers around, they'll insult me. All I care about now is winning the AWA title back. Nothing else matters anymore." □

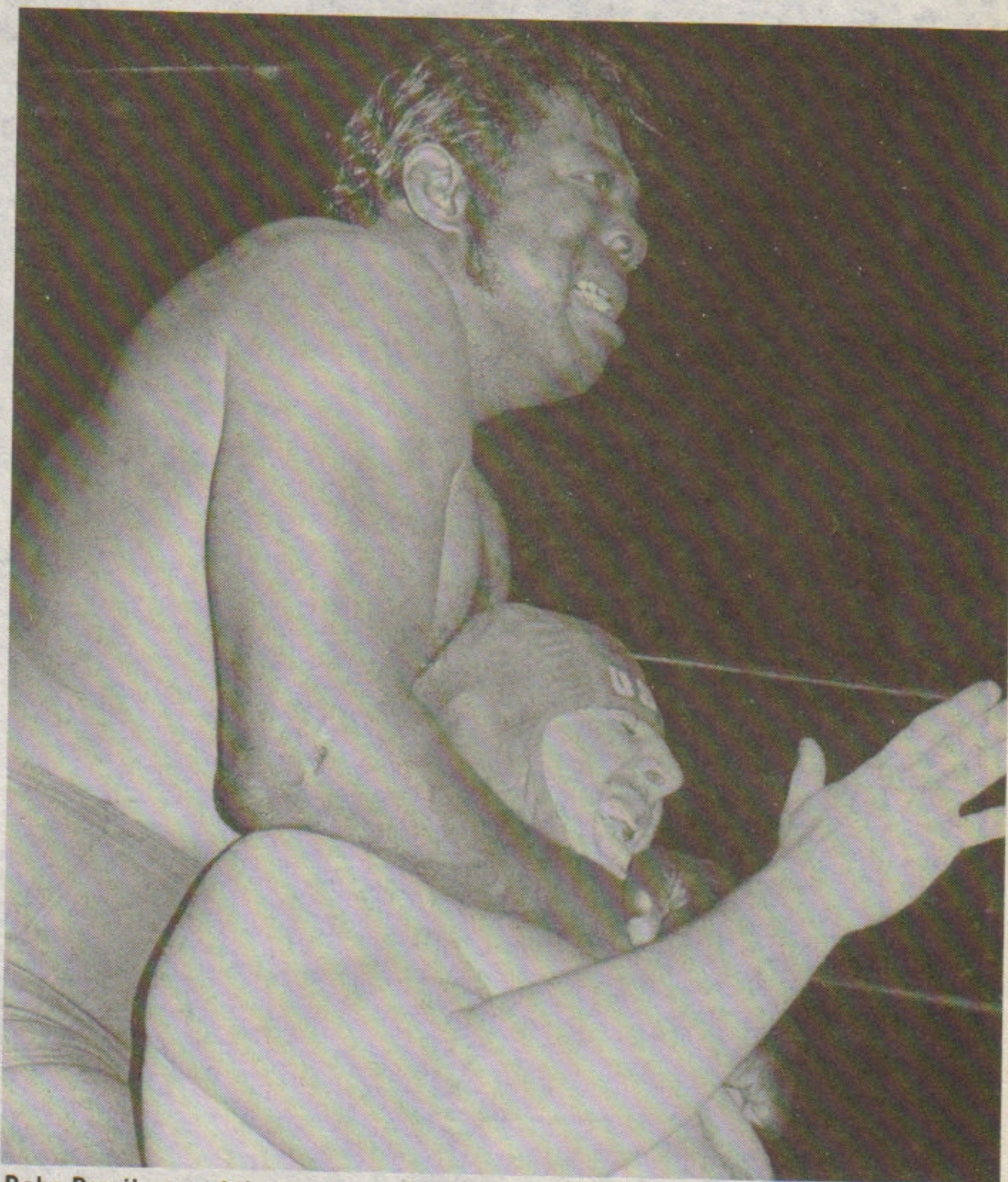
INSIDE WRESTLING

53

CAPSULE PROFILE

ONE OF THE most beloved wrestlers in history . . . Has wrestled in every corner of the world (*"I love to travel"*) . . . Started his athletic career as a baseball player (*"I liked baseball, but wrestling was number one for me"*) . . . On several occasions, held the prestigious United States Heavyweight title (*"It's a crown I'm proud of"*) . . . Over the years, has been involved in some of wrestling's truly classic feuds, notably with The Sheik (*"That crazy person deserved every blow I ever landed. I really hate his guts"*) . . . Also feuded with Fred Blassie (*"Another lunatic who doesn't know how to wrestle. All he can do is cheat and try and hit you low"*) . . . Most famous maneuver is the coco-butt (*"Took me a long time to perfect that move. I worked on it day and night until I had it down right. Nothing like the feeling of bashing my skull into someone's head*

BOBO BRAZIL



Bobo Brazil, one of the most popular wrestlers of all time, puts the squeeze on Nikolai Volkoff. Brazil, who has wrestled throughout the world, is now concentrating his efforts in Florida. He and his coco-butt will undoubtedly leave area rulebreakers with some splitting headaches.

and sending him flying") . . . Currently teaming with Dusty Rhodes on an irregular basis ("Me and Dusty get along real well. I really admire and respect the Dream. I think we're a real fine tag team") . . . Always receptive to fans ("Hey, without the fans, you don't have any wrestling. I love my fans, from one end of the world to the other") . . .

Finds some of the current rulebreakers to be particularly offensive ("I don't like that Don Muraco. I don't like Koloff or Volkoff. And that fatso Humperdink is a disgrace to my sport") . . . Looks forward to many more years of wrestling ("This sport and the people in it have been very good to me. I don't have any complaints"). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PIN-UP



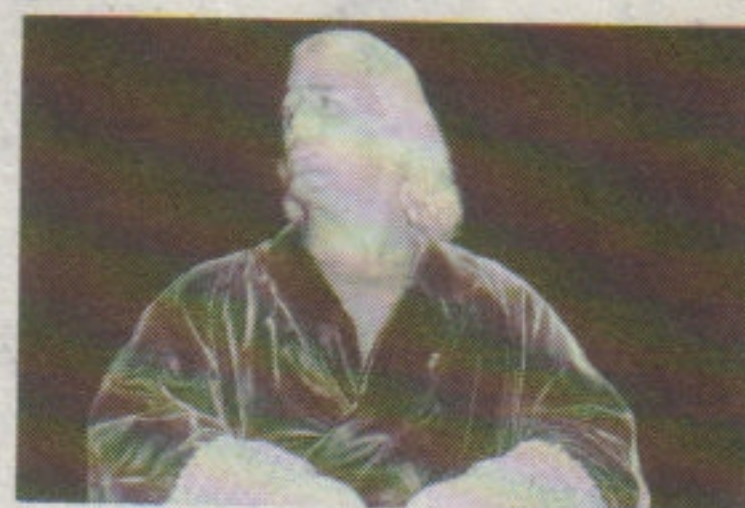
BOBO BRAZIL

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!

AUSTIN IDOL

The controversial blond bomber now angers fans in Memphis. After a successful stint in Georgia, Idol elected to move a little further north and drink up some of the area's top scientific wrestlers. Idol fans in Georgia cannot believe he has changed his style again.

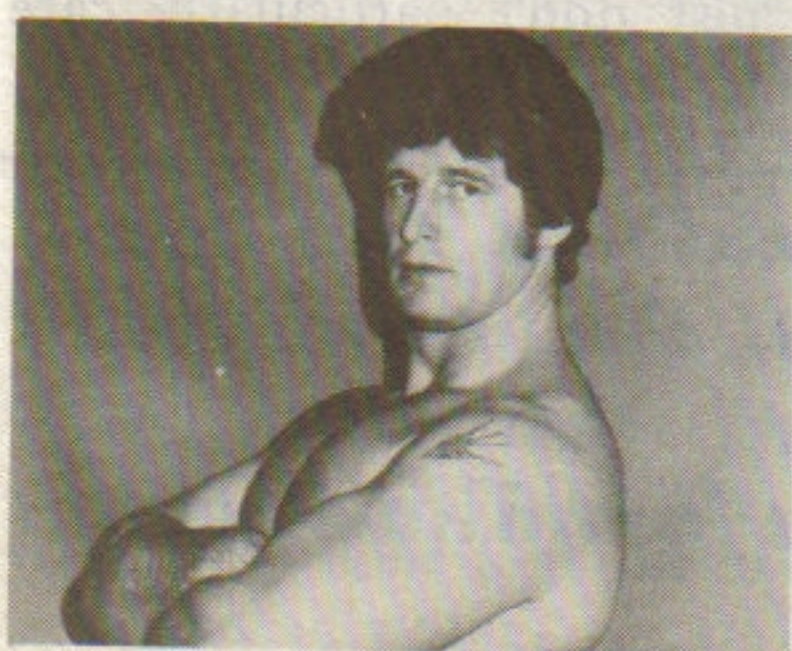
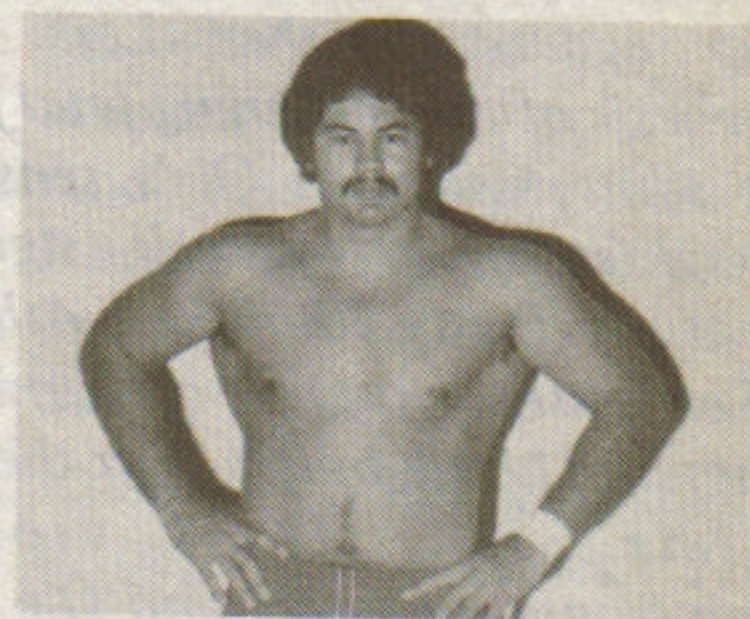


PAUL JONES

After an unexplained absence, Paul Jones has returned to the Mid-Atlantic area. Jones left after local fans demanded his head as the result of a brutal feud between Jones and Rick Steamboat. But Jones insists he has changed his ways and wants the fans to give him one more chance.

ALBERTO MADRIL

Popular Alberto Madril has settled for an extended stay in the City of Angels, Los Angeles. Madril makes no attempts to conceal his ultimate objective—a world championship. Madril is always kind to fans and especially wants to thank those loyal legions who patiently awaited his return.

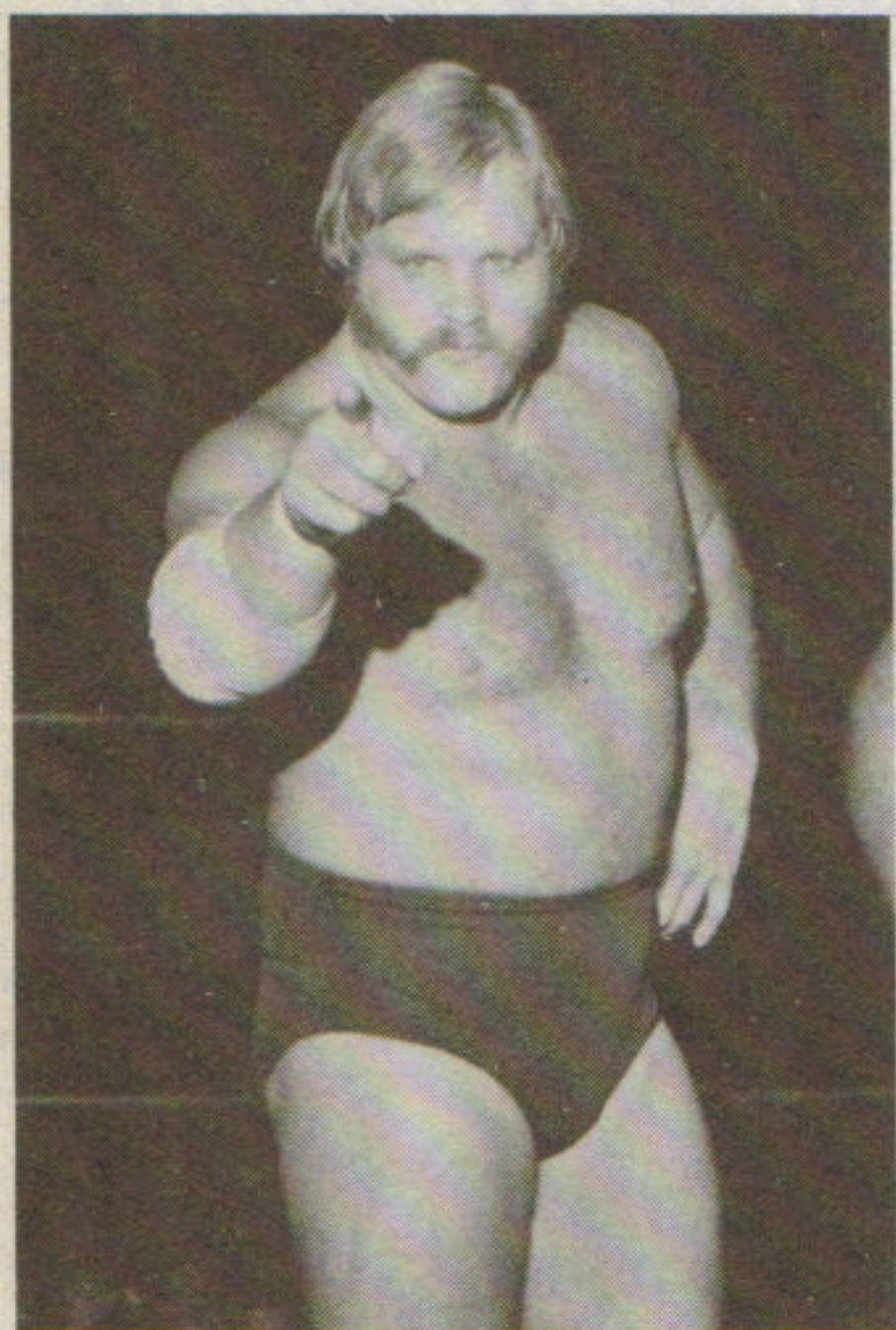


TONY GAREA

Tony Garea confesses his return to the WWF is fraught with peril and laden with sorrow. Garea knows he must take on former friend and partner Larry Zbyszko, that Zbyszko's recent attacks on scientific wrestlers cannot go unpunished. When Zbyszko first turned on Sammartino, Garea tried to talk to Zbyszko. Now he's finished with words.



ONE ON ONE



*(Sorrow envelopes the entire state of Georgia. A family feud of catastrophic proportions engulfs and threatens to shred the Anderson family's fortune. Ole and Gene Anderson have teamed up against brother Lars. The genesis of this sickening feud finds a slimy source in Ole's senseless back-stabbing assault against partner Dusty Rhodes in Atlanta. Lars rushed to Ole's aid. And the horrific battle builds. For the first time since their violent confrontation, Lars and Ole meet each other in **One on One's** most memorable confrontation.)*



Picturephones courtesy of Bell Telephone

OLE ANDERSON:

Well, well, who is it I see on the screen? Isn't it my former brother?

LARS ANDERSON:

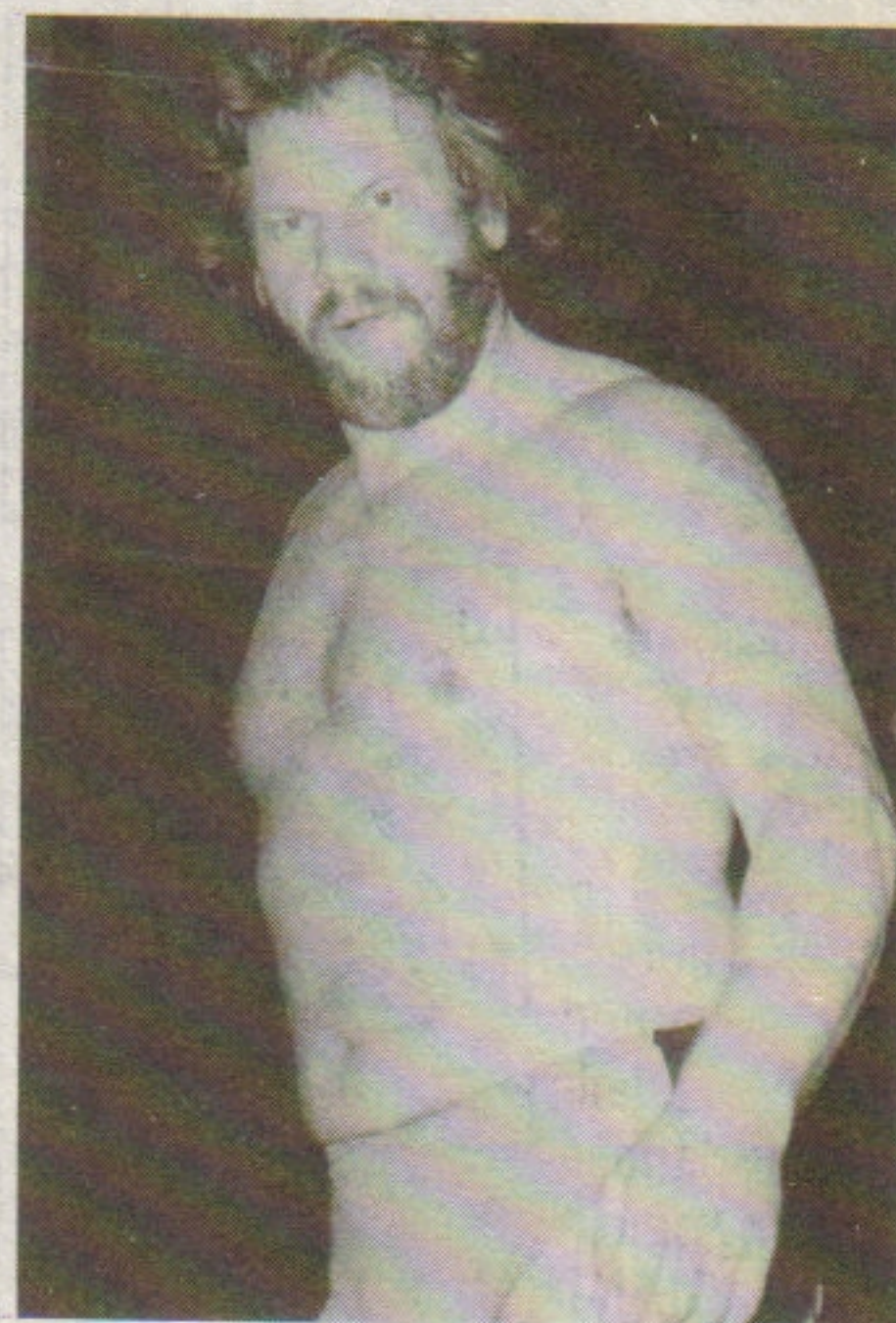
I'm still your brother, Ole. I just don't particularly care for you.

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse of wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

W O N E



Simulated photos



OA: You don't care for me? You come in and put a knife in my back and say you don't care for me? That's a helluva understatement, former brother of mine.

LA: This has nothing to do with being brothers.

OA: Has everything to do with it. A brother stands by his brother no matter what.

LA: Even if he feels his brother is dead wrong?

OA: Yup.

LA: No, I don't buy that idea. It's one thing to love a brother and another to support him in a disgusting act. What you did to Dusty Rhodes stunk, and I wouldn't stand off to the side and just watch.

OA: Rhodes got what was coming to him.

LA: He didn't do nothin' to you except trust you, which was a

mistake.

OA: I can be trusted.

LA: How can you be trusted when you turn on a partner?

OA: He was about to sell me out.

LA: Rhodes wouldn't do that.

OA: Oh, who told you?

LA: Rhodes did.

OA: And you naturally believe Rhodes instead of your own brother.

LA: Sadly, yeah.

OA: Rhodes is a liar who cheats through his matches. You grow up with me and end up believin' a total stranger. How's that make me feel?

OA: Rhodes is a friend of mine.

OE: And what am I?

LA: Only my brother.

OA: That all?

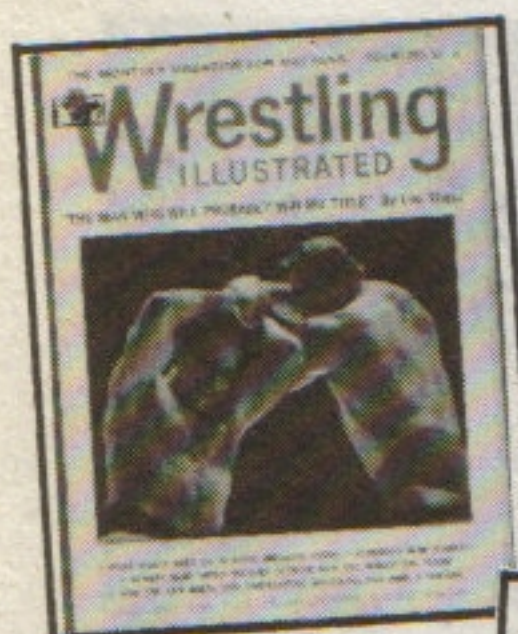
LA: Yup. I thought you were my friend, but I was wrong.

(Continued on page 62)

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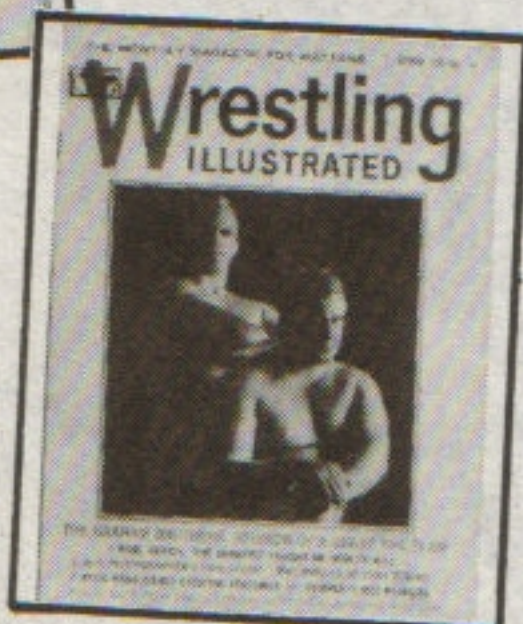
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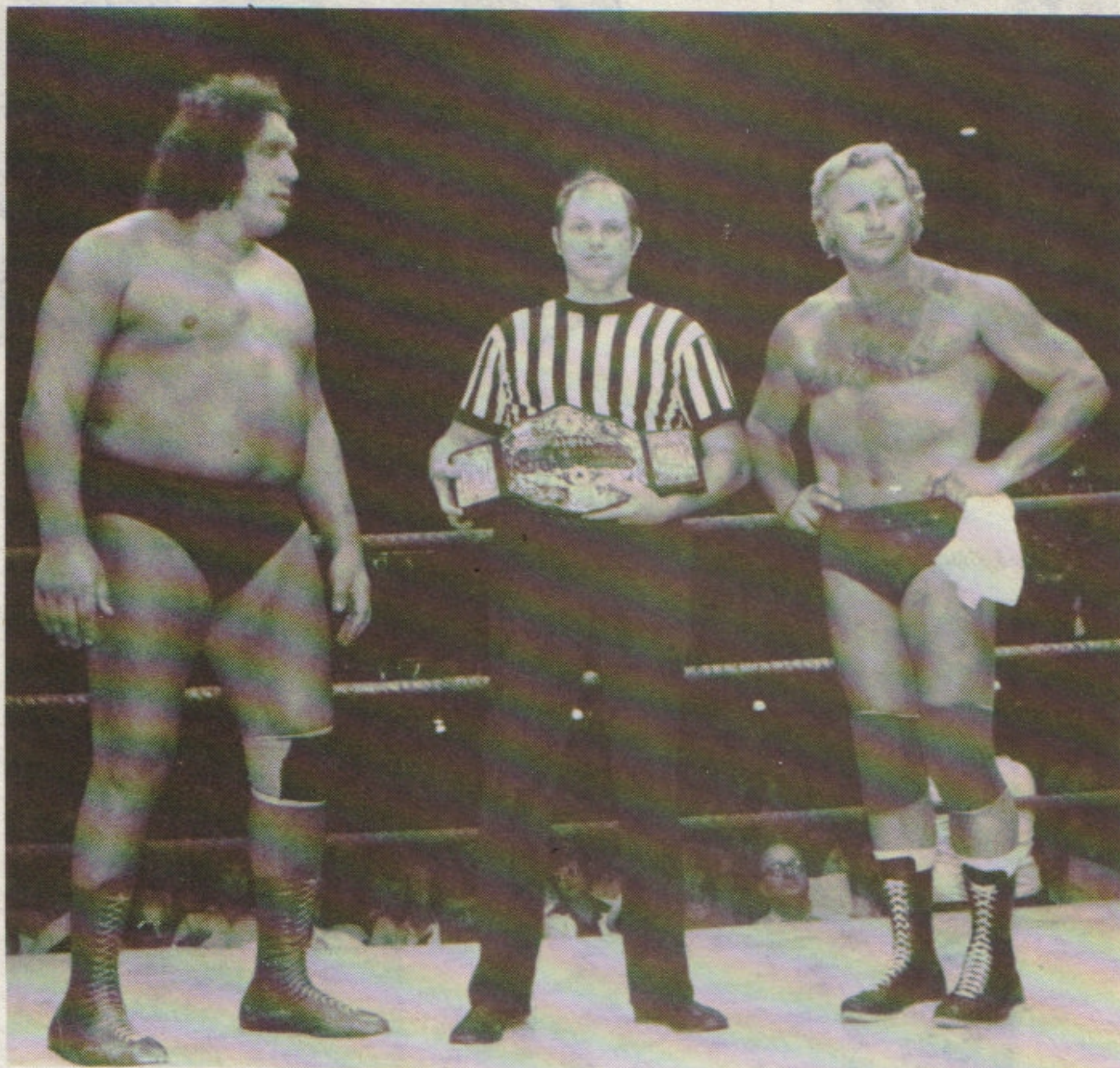
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BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 10)



Referee Dick Kroll stands between Andre the Giant and Nick Bockwinkel, with the AWA belt to be returned to the winner. Andre did in fact win the bout, but Nick retained the title via the disqualification rule.

however, puzzles me. His failure to capture a world championship, despite his lifetime undefeated record, was worth study. So I locked myself in the *Inside Wrestling* studio and went through our entire Andre the Giant film file. I found a very definite pattern to his matches.

Andre's mild demeanor will not allow him to go all out against any foe. When Andre wrestles, his total output is around 50 percent. That is fine most of the time since even at half pace, Andre is twice as strong as most of his opponents. But in a championship match, when all of Andre's energies are required, he still shows mercy. The talent he needs to win the match is there, but the killer instinct he needs to win the championship cannot be summoned.

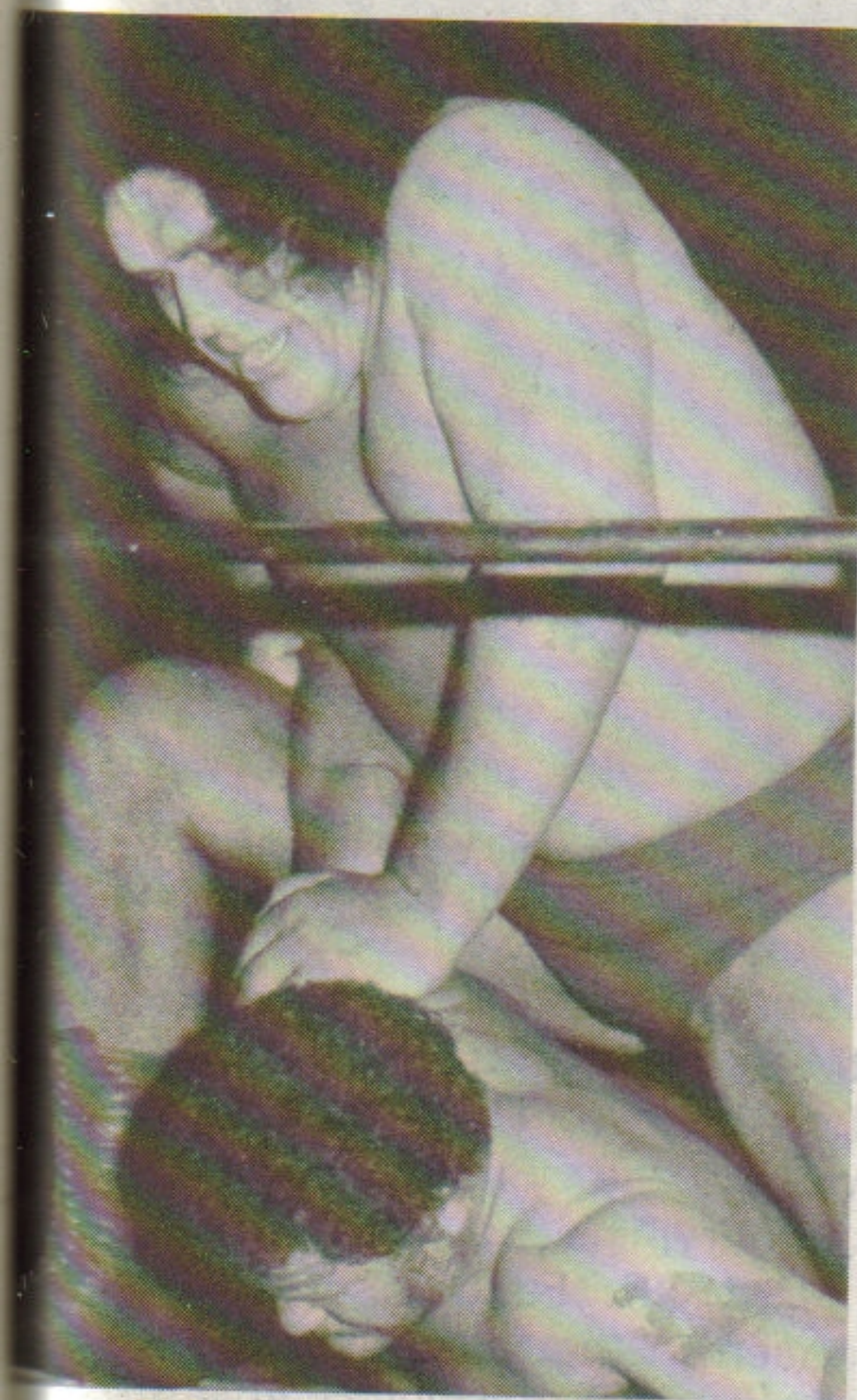
Why can't Andre call upon what is needed to win a world championship? The instinct, in my opinion, is there. I viewed several films in which Andre was in trouble and escaped with amazing displays of strength. I looked at other films when one of Andre's friends was being sneak-attacked, and Andre rushed into the ring showing more emotion in helping his friends than he ever showed trying to help himself.

As sad as it is, there is something inside of Andre that will not allow him to help himself. He fears success.

I do not mean to direct criticism at such a fine human being. I could condemn a man for not trying, but I cannot blame a man for something he is not responsible for. Andre's fears—whether they be of failure or

success—cannot be controlled. Rather than chastise the man for not being champion, I respect him for having the inner stability to go on wrestling, forever striving for something he may never get. As the years go by, the frustrations multiply. His performance in the ring never suffers. He maintains his unbelievable victory streak.

Naturally, he resents any suggestion that he fears reaching the top. It's a hard personality trait to admit to oneself. "I have nothing to be



Andre puts the pressure on Harley Race and wins the match, but fails to capture the NWA title as Harley was counted out of the ring.

afraid of," he insists. "The championship will one day be mine, and when it is, I will hold it for many, many years."

Andre may well be right. He may one day win a world championship. But on that day, he may suddenly realize that he has nothing left to aim for. He may lose all interest in wrestling. He'll retire. And that would be the saddest thing of all. ☐

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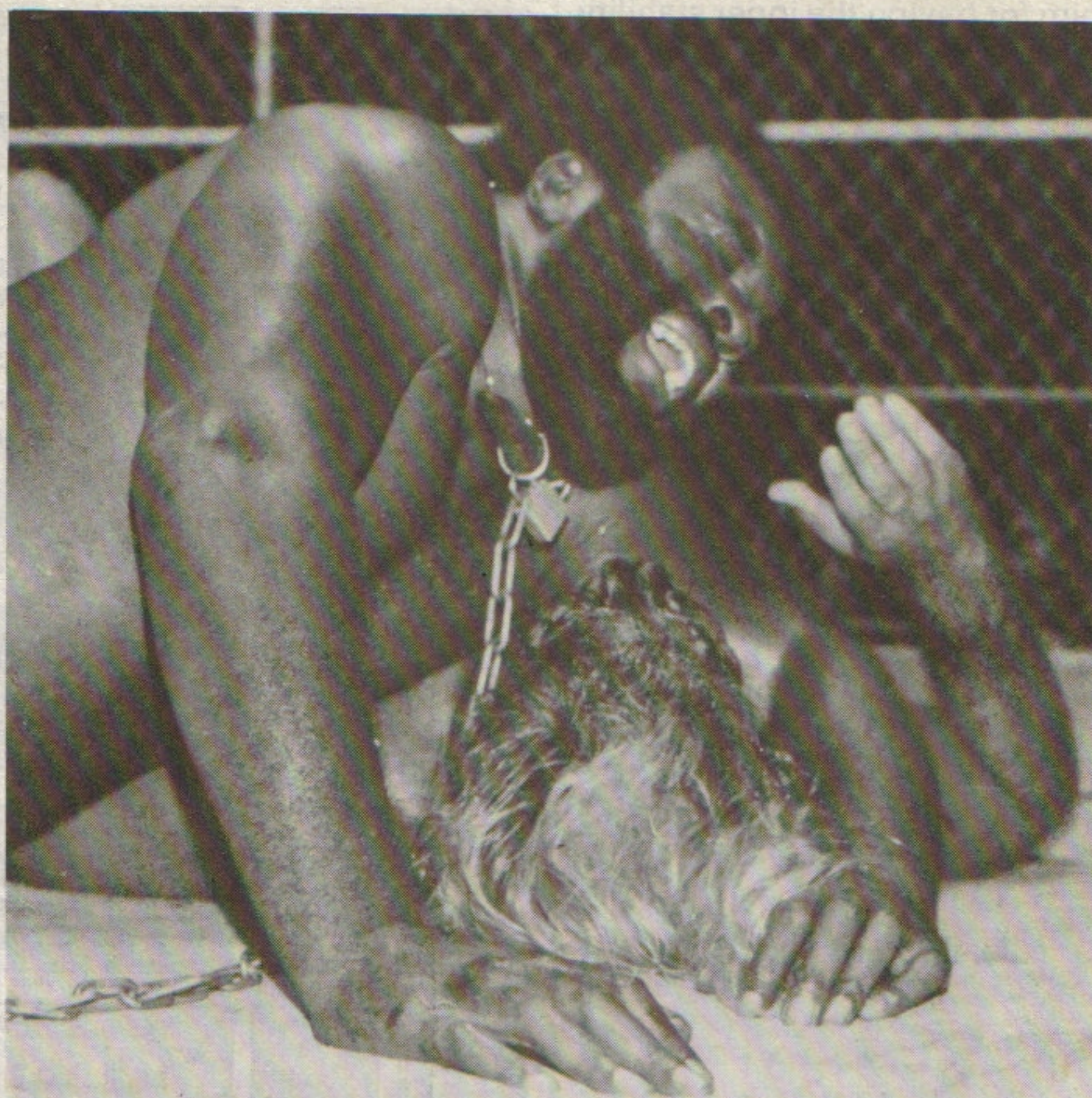
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THE INSIDER

(Continued from Page 14)



Remarkably, Junkyard Dog regained partial vision by using simple Visine eye drops. Unfortunately, the cure was only temporary. Still, the courageous man continues to wrestle all challengers.

RUMOR VS. FACT

RUMOR: The case of temporary blindness currently ailing Louisiana-Oklahoma fan favorite Junkyard Dog may be curable by simple use of Visine eye drops!

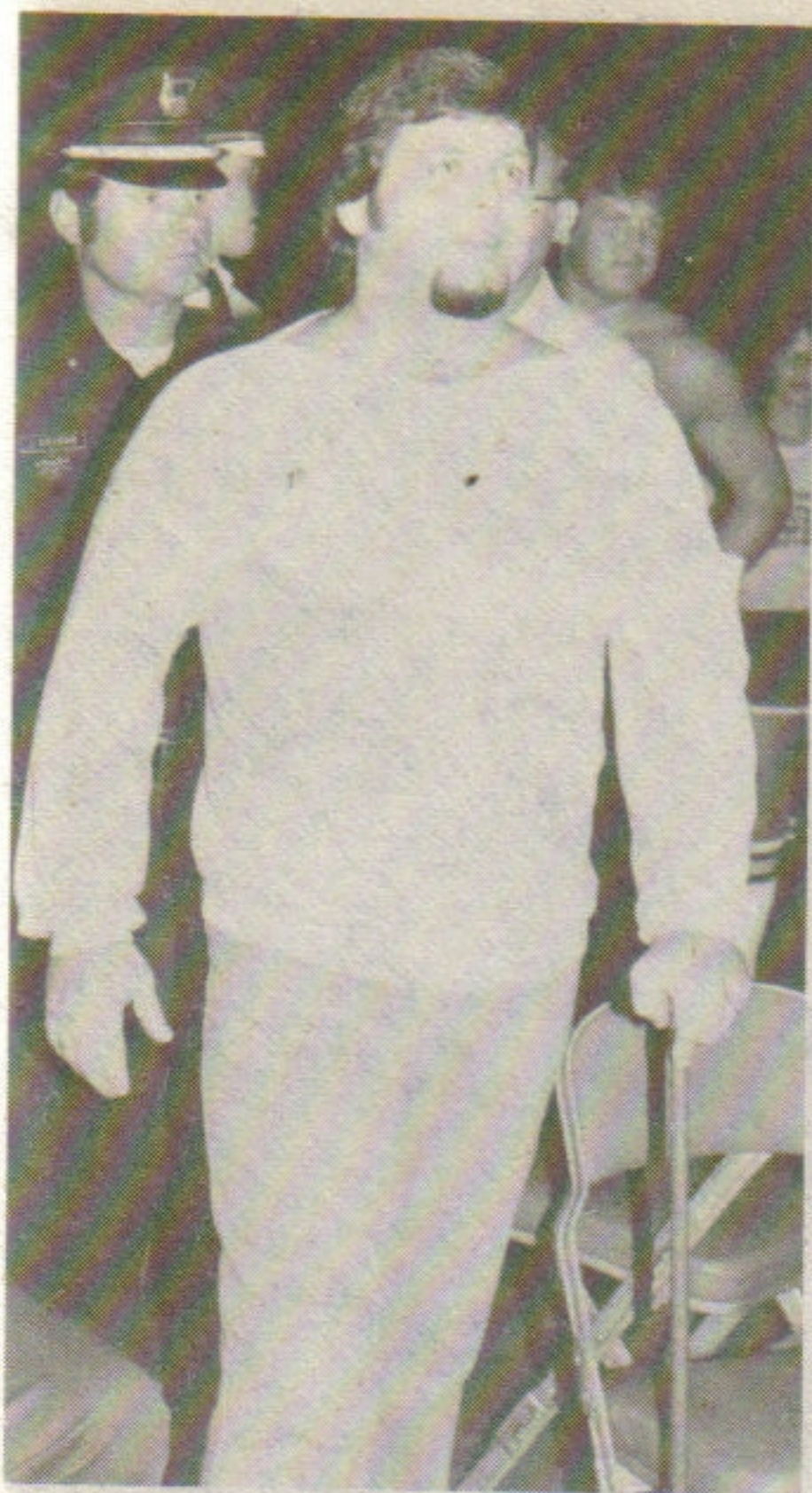
FACT: A prominent New Orleans' ophthalmologist examined Junkyard Dog after a recent match and recommended the use of eye drops. After absorbing a drop in each eye, Junkyard felt much better. "Things looked a little cloudy to me, which is a lot better than when they looked all black," he said.

But the instant cure wasn't meant to be for Junkyard. Within minutes, he was again without vision. He won't give up, however. "With

the help of my fans and the dear Lord above, I'll be better to watch the Super Bowl in January," he promised.

RUMOR: Fabulous Moolah, queen of the female wrestlers, has developed a slave stable of young female wrestlers and uses them to do her menial labor!

FACT: "Dahlin', I'm honored that you would think I'd be that influential, but there is no truth to that story," the champion responded via telephone. "I do take an interest in many of the young up-and-coming girls, but that's only because I want to know where my next challenge is coming from. I didn't stay on top all these years by laying back and letting these upstarts catch me by surprise, honey."



Jerry Lawler, who had been forced to walk with a cane for a long period of time, is now back in action and better than ever.

INJURY REPORT

Memphis fan favorite JERRY LAWLER has recovered from a recent leg injury and is once again performing superbly in the squared circle. "Feel great," Lawler said. "Think I could wrestle every night for a year or so."

WWF rulebreaker THE HANGMAN is suffering from, believe it or not, a hangnail. "Ah, the irony of it all," said The Hangman's manager, Fred Blassie. "Doesn't matter, though. Even with nine fingers, he's strong enough to whip all those pencil-necked geeks out there."

And finally, we are happy to report that KERRY VON ERICH has finally found the right medication to aid his chronic case of hayfever. "It was especially annoying during a match," Kerry said. "I would go into a sneezing fit and lose my advantage."

That's it for now. Catch you later. ☐

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In November 1958 Stanley Weston launched BOXING ILLUSTRATED-WRESTLING NEWS, which established an entirely new concept in the field of boxing and wrestling magazines. They consisted of about 65 percent boxing and 35 percent wrestling in content of the finest writing and photographs

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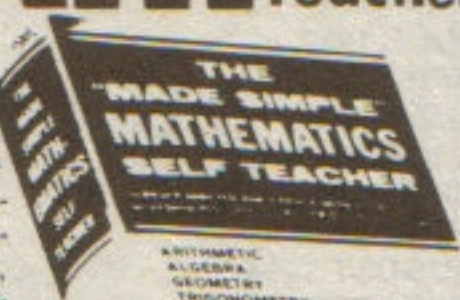
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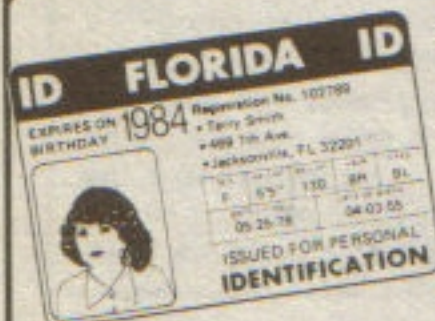


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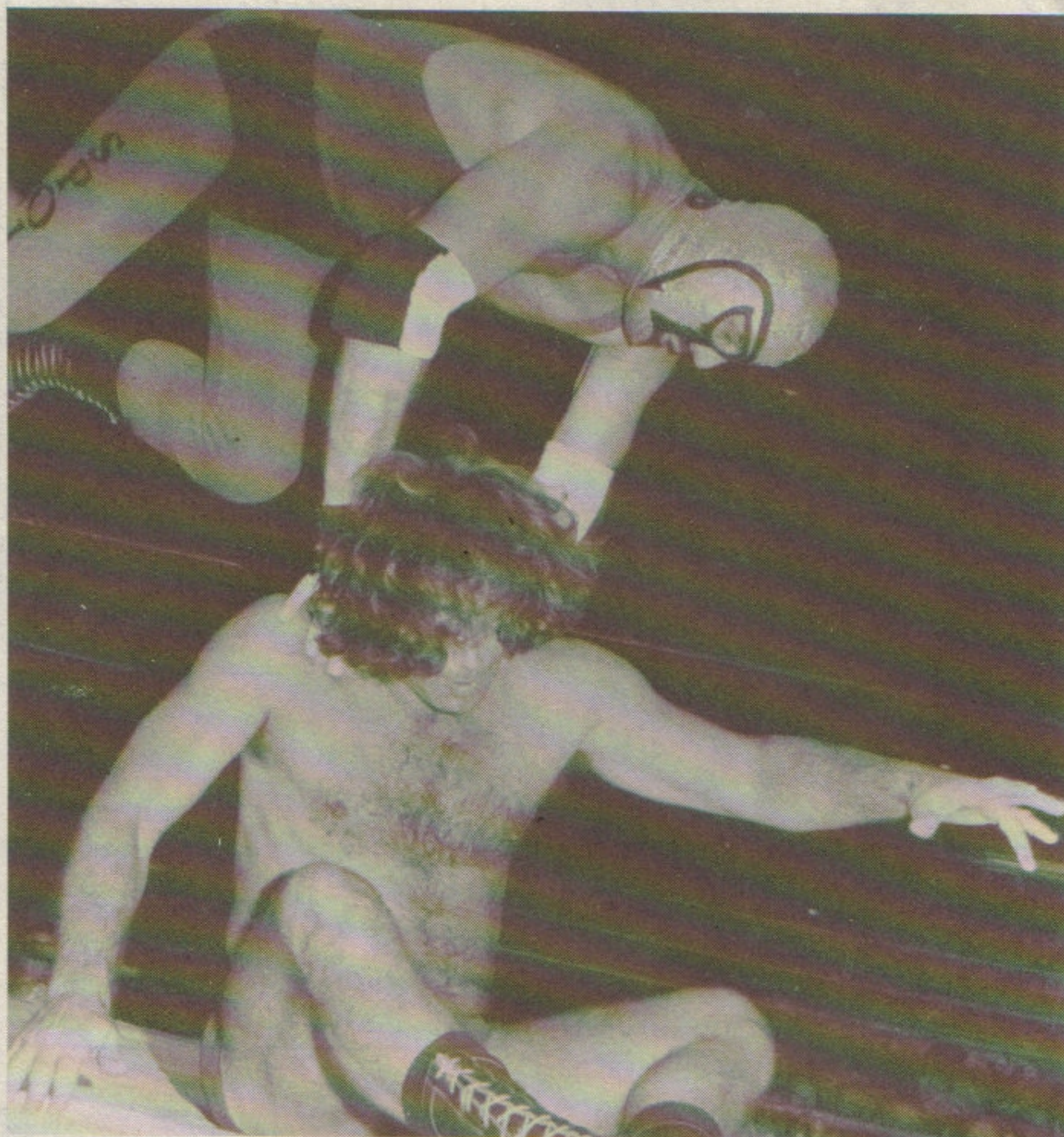
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ELIMINATE THE BRISCOS

(Continued from Page 31)



Humperdink is forever in debt to a computer for finding Spoiler, who kneedrives Jack (above). Jack resorts to some of the Spoiler's tactics (below).

fine sport would be populated by such men like this. He's a sleazy little man, isn't he?

"So Humperdink said he was ready to really do some good for the sport. He even insisted I check his references.

"They okayed Humperdink's character. Usually I prefer something in writing, but, I, I guess I got a little desperate. Money has been so short and he waved a wad of bills under my nose. I, I guess I should've double-checked him, but, well, I didn't."

Smythe played with the buttons on Matilda's frame.

"So I accepted all the information and punched it into the computer. Humperdink wanted to match his friend Super Destroyer with another masked person. So I computed all the potential wrestlers and the



program came out spoiled. I was very upset that Matilda said the program was spoiled. I told Humperdink the program was spoiled and he got very excited. I was about to return his money when he jumped up and down like a tree stump and said how wonderful I was and how I'd saved wrestling. I couldn't understand how a Super Destroyer and a spoiled computer program meant anything until I read the newspapers a while later and learned what I'd done."

Spoiler and Super Destroyer teamed to take on Jack and Jerry Brisco, who recently lost their Florida tag team titles to another of Humperdink's men, Nikolai Volkoff and Ivan Koloff.

"I feel responsible for any pain that comes to the Brisco brothers," said Smythe. "It was my invention that was used. I cannot act as if I was deceived. I should have exercised more caution. I should have checked and re-checked on Humperdink's qualifications. But I didn't.

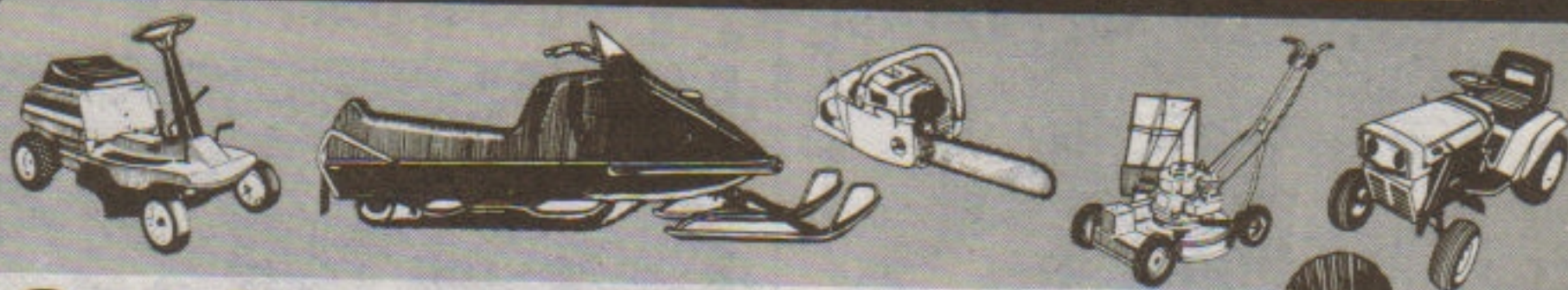
"I created Matilda and only I have the right to destroy her. All the dreams I had of bringing a better ideal to the world have been ruined by this. I dreamt of better mankind and using Matilda's infinite wisdom and decency for good, instead of the evil she has wrought.

"I must shut her off for good lest this happen again. I could not bear the thought of a repeat of this horrible affair. Matilda must perish. And I don't know how I can go on knowing I brought such destruction and misery to other human beings."

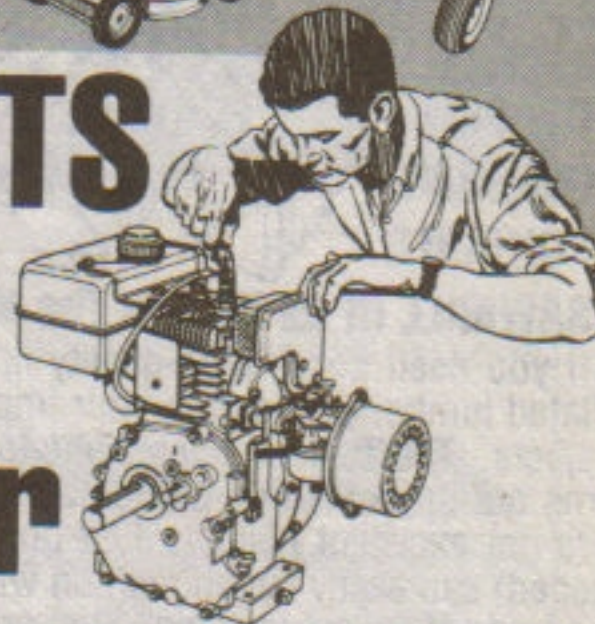
Smythe caressed the top of Matilda's silent head, winced and tore out the red starter button in her navel. She quivered and coughed, sputtered, and fell still for the last time.

Sir Oliver Humperdink had destroyed two more. ☐

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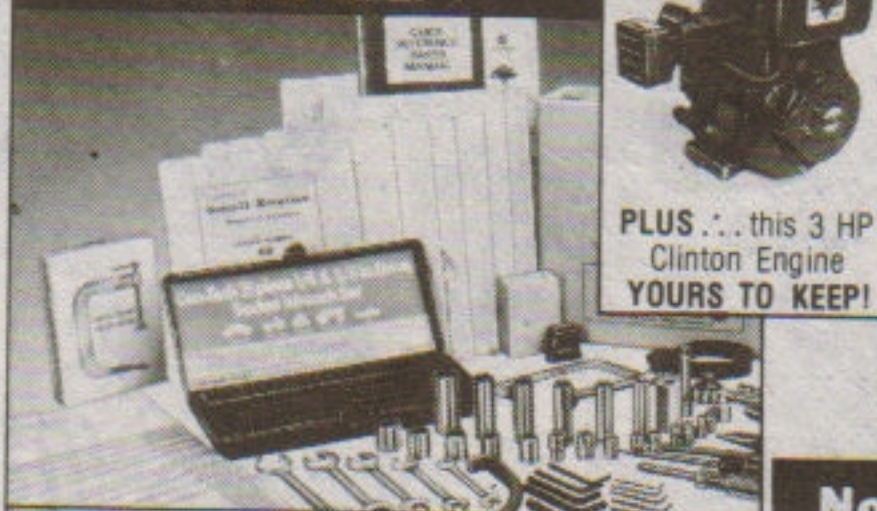
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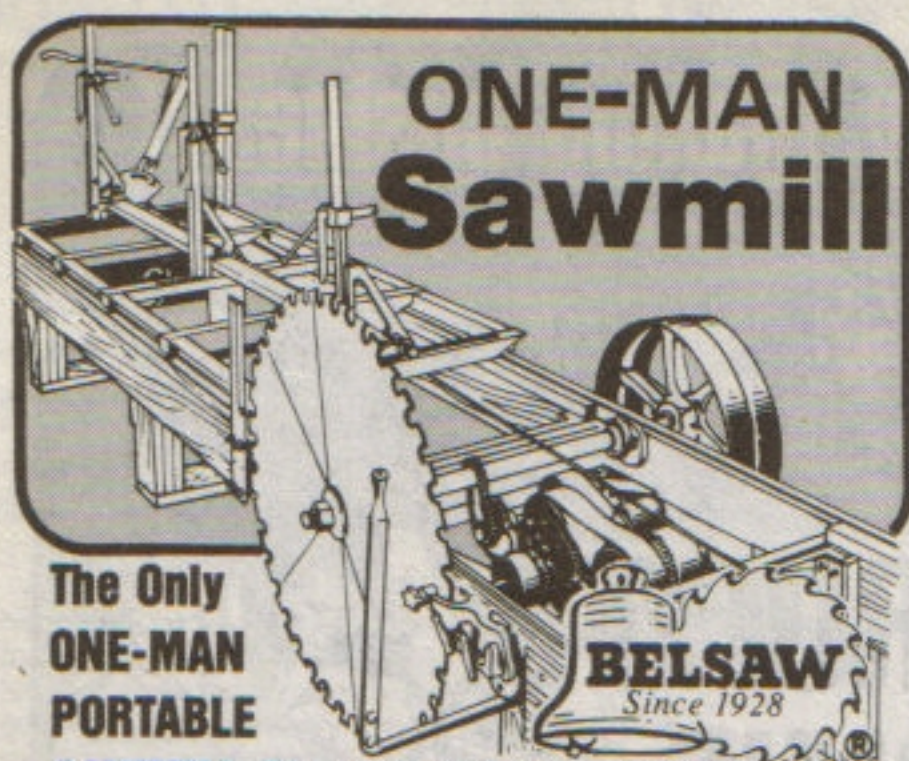
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BACKLUND- MORALES

(Continued from Page 35)



Sika and manager Lou Albano go to work on Morales on the infield grass (above left) until Backlund comes to his partner's aid. Bob chases Albano away and then directs his attention to Sika (above right).

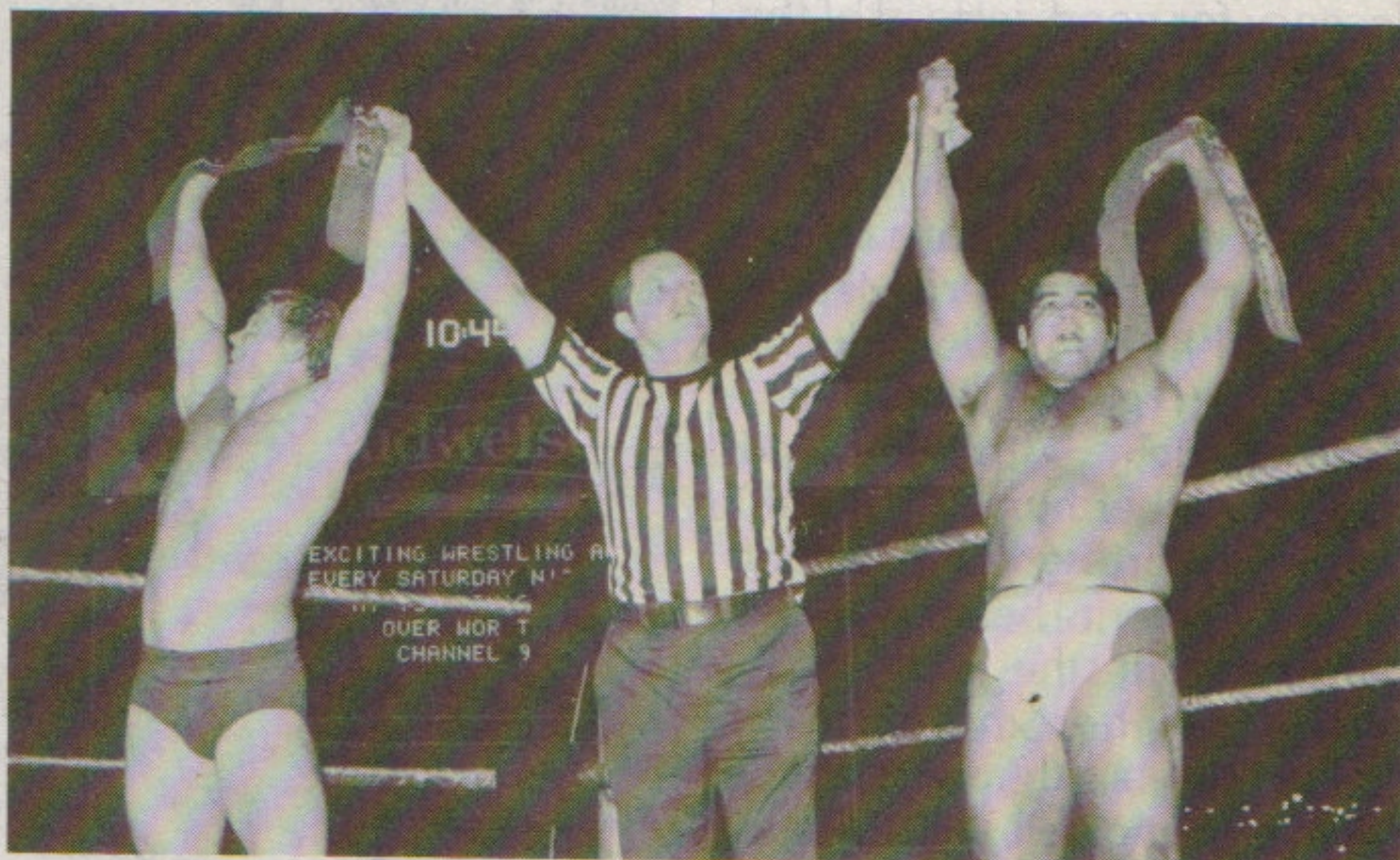


tag team title is worth a small fortune. Morales lost all that money. Backlund, bringing in big bucks defending his first crown, won't miss the added money. Pedro will feel it pinching hard in his wallet.

Pedro says he isn't bitter. As one friend of both men said, "If Pedro isn't bitter, he's slightly more tolerant than a saint. Bob shafted him good. People don't understand how much work wrestlers

put into a tag team. We're talking about months of planning. Most of the planning was Pedro's. Backlund didn't have time. A tag team is supposed to be equal. Well, Pedro was more equal than Bob.

"Once he had the title, Pedro's work would pay off. He'd get the money and respect due a tag team champion. Now he winds up with an asterisk in the record books. That's enough to make anybody bitter. Hell, he sure deserves to



Referee Dick Kroll raises the arms of the victorious Backlund and Morales as 40,671 fans stand and cheer.

be bitter.

"You can't really blame Bob. He felt the most important thing in the world was to take the tag team belts from the Samoans. He didn't really consider what would happen after he took them. Maybe he didn't really believe he could. It was going to be a noble attempt. Bob likes to make noble attempts.

"The attempt was too good. Backlund found himself with two championships, which he quickly discovered was one too many. He did the only thing he could do. I also think he thought Pedro would keep the title and take another partner. He just didn't think Pedro would give it up entirely. I didn't think Pedro would, either. I think Pedro has more integrity than anyone I know. Still, I think he's a bit of a fool to be that honest about it."

There are reports that Bob begged Pedro to find another partner and keep the title. Backlund told many people he wishes Pedro had done that. Because of his respect for Morales, Bob thinks Pedro brings honor to the crown and the sport. For the same reasons he wrestled the Samoans, he wants Pedro to own the belt.

Still, when all is said and done, Backlund has everything and Pedro comes up empty. Bob now goes in the record books as the only man to ever simultaneously hold the WWF single and tag team belts. His reputation is elevated to that reserved for the greats. No one can doubt his claim to a place in wrestling immortality.

Pedro, a former WWF champion, winds up with a mention that he was Backlund's partner when this great feat was accomplished. He also gets mentioned for holding the WWF tag team belt for the shortest time in history.

If it's true, they should also honor him for not being bitter about the whole hapless mess. □

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KOLOFF · MASCARAS

(Continued from Page 37)

date. Mil readily accepted.

Then Koloff began to train in earnest. Every rulebreaker in Florida traveled to the gym to help him. The group worked long and hard. There was nothing about Mil Mascaras they didn't know. That's what scared them.

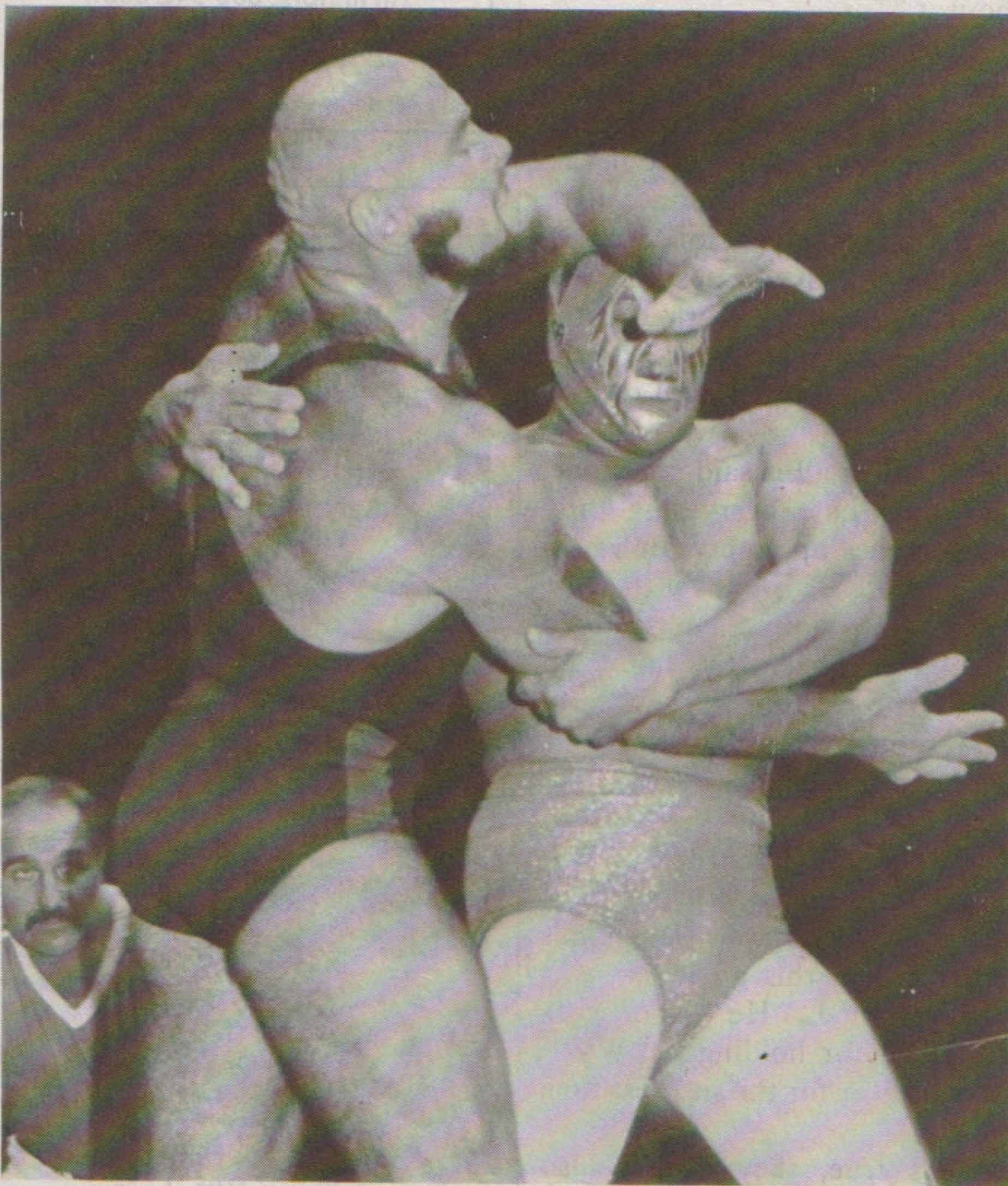
Finally, the day arrived for Koloff to go to Houston. The band of wrestling outlaws didn't accompany him to the airport. Koloff knew why. From that point on, he was on his own.

Two nights later, Koloff walked into the Houston arena. He never felt so sure of himself. Spectators were hushed by the

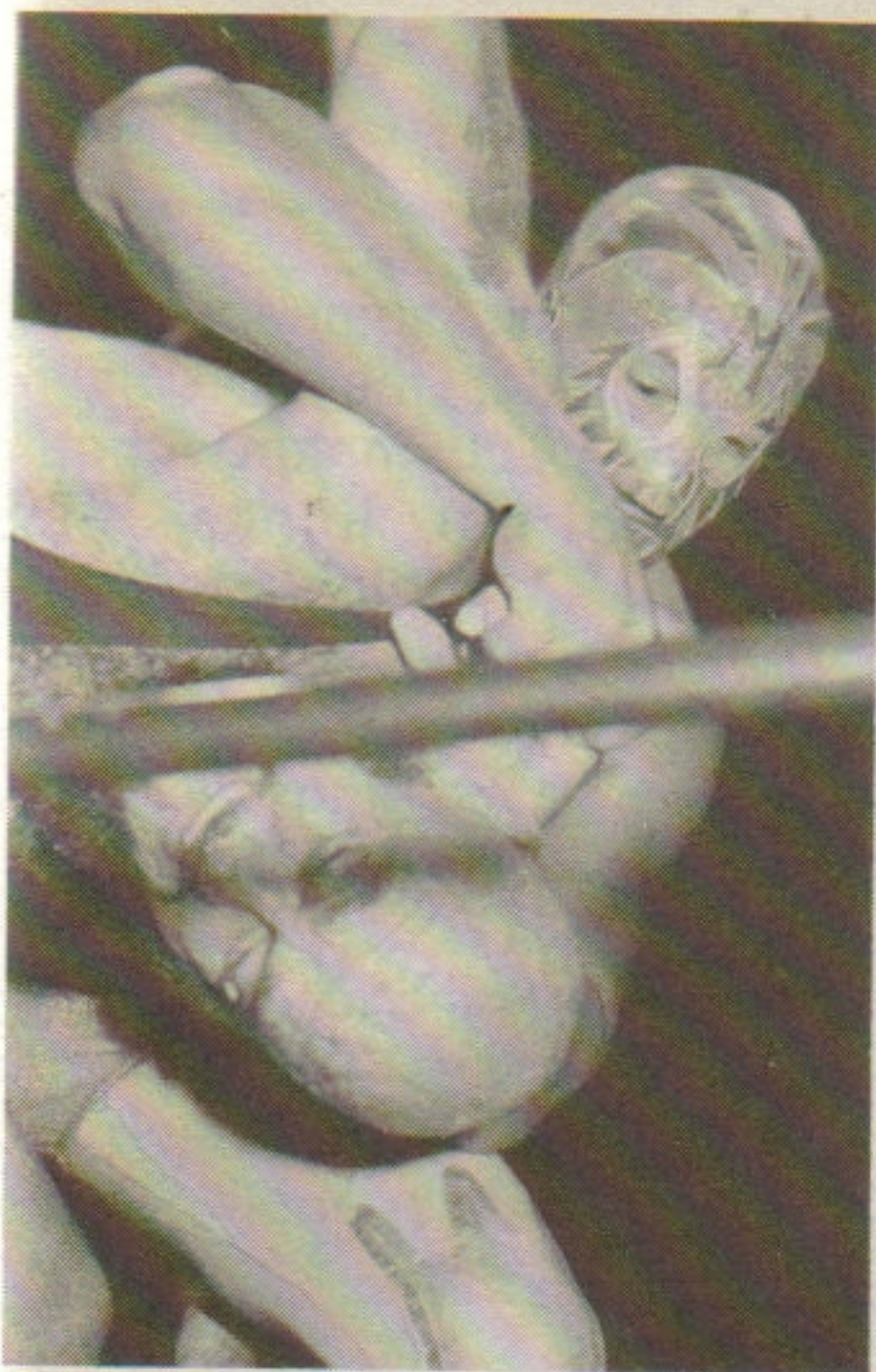
purposeful cruelty of his stride. For many, it was the first time in their lives they worried for Mascaras.

These fears were dispelled when Mil came into the arena. His athletic grace exuded power and determination. Mil was ready to defend himself. More than that, he was ready to conquer.

From the opening bell, it was a superb battle. Both men were at their peaks, driven to excel. The two grapplers went at each other with a professional's furious precision. The crowd was quiet, awed by the brilliant display of wrestling virtuosity.



Mascaras breaks loose from a Koloff headlock and whips the Russian Bear across the ring.



Koloff gets to the ropes, forcing Mascaras to break his abdominal stretch. Koloff's mission to Texas was a failure. Mascaras cannot be intimidated.

As the match wore on, Koloff grew more and more desperate. He got wild and reckless, took risks that were bad mistakes. Koloff sensed that he'd go back to Florida a failure. His pride forced him to take chances.

Mil took advantage of every Koloff mistake. The beloved mat star soon had the match under his control. Koloff was looking bad, and Ivan knew it.

All of a sudden, Ivan froze. His eyes grew large and wild, terrifying to see. Mascaras stood and stared in wonder. The two men remained transfixed for about a second. Then, with a scream that mixed anguish and rage, Koloff rushed Mascaras. Before anyone knew what was happening, Ivan hurled Mil over the ropes.

In Texas, that means disqualification. Mil won the match. He leaped back into the ring and raised his arm in victory.

Two hours later, Ivan Koloff was on a plane back to Florida. He knew that Mil Mascaras would be following soon. ☐

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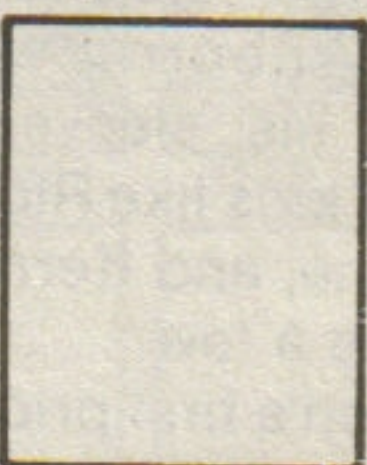
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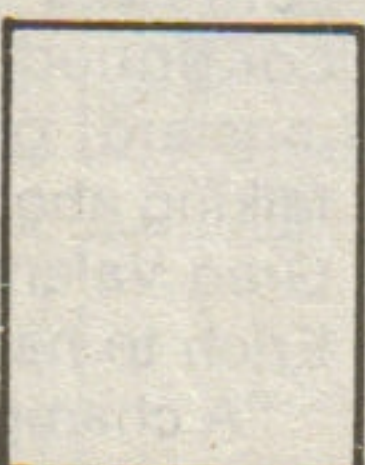
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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



Backlund raises his championship belt as the fans cheer a recent victory. Bob seeks a unified title.

exclusively in the NWA, defending his title against the talented young guys instead of someone like Backlund," continued Wilburn, wiping mustard on his sleeve. "I'm talking about kids like Ric Flair, Greg Valentine, and Kerry Von Erich to name a few.

"A champion's first priority is to his own people. Now, I don't want this to come across as criticism of Harley. I know what it's like for a champion to defend his title night after night against all the best and meanest in the world.

"It can wear you down. But Harley has fallen victim to temptation. He wants to be undisputed champion of the world. Well, I have some news for him: Harley Race already is undisputed champion of the world."

Wilburn sipped a coke and composed himself long enough to sit.

"Every time someone wins any old title, they proclaim themselves a champion without trying to put things into perspective," Wilburn said. "Now some people understand that a certain title is regional, confined to beating the very best in a state or a specific region.

"But the National Wrestling Alliance covers the whole world, and Harley Race is champion of the whole world, not just a few states like Backlund.

"Who has Backlund ever beaten? Has he beaten Race? In his own area, he hasn't even defeated Bruno Sammartino. Far as I'm concerned, you can't claim the WWF title without beating a great like Sammartino.

"Nope, Backlund is a decent wrestler, a nice kid, from what I hear, but not in Harley's class. Race should continue his efforts in the NWA. There are so many great wrestlers around like Mil Mascaras, Rick Steamboat, you can't even begin to name all the great grapplers.

"I think Harley's problem is he's too nice, too modest, too willing to give a kid a break. Race should acknowledge his own greatness and understand no one else compares with him in terms of skill, achievement, and knowledge in any comparison of wrestling champions.

"Sure, there are other champions. But only Harley Race is the true world champion."

Bloated by three sandwiches, four pickles, and two helpings of sponge cake, I traveled back east to talk to Bob Backlund. His side of the story will appear in my column next month. □

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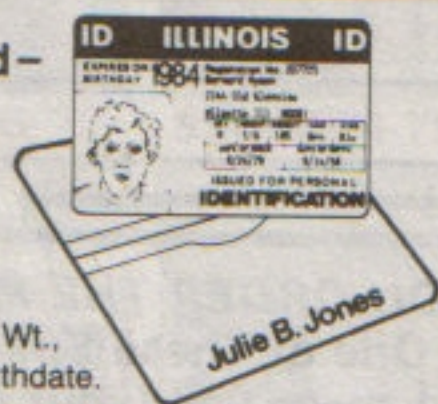
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ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 47)

OA: What about all we've been through, huh? You can do something like this after all we've gone through?

LA: I thought I knew you, Ole. I was real wrong.

OA: I don't care if you're wrong anymore. Far as me and Gene are concerned, you're outta the family.

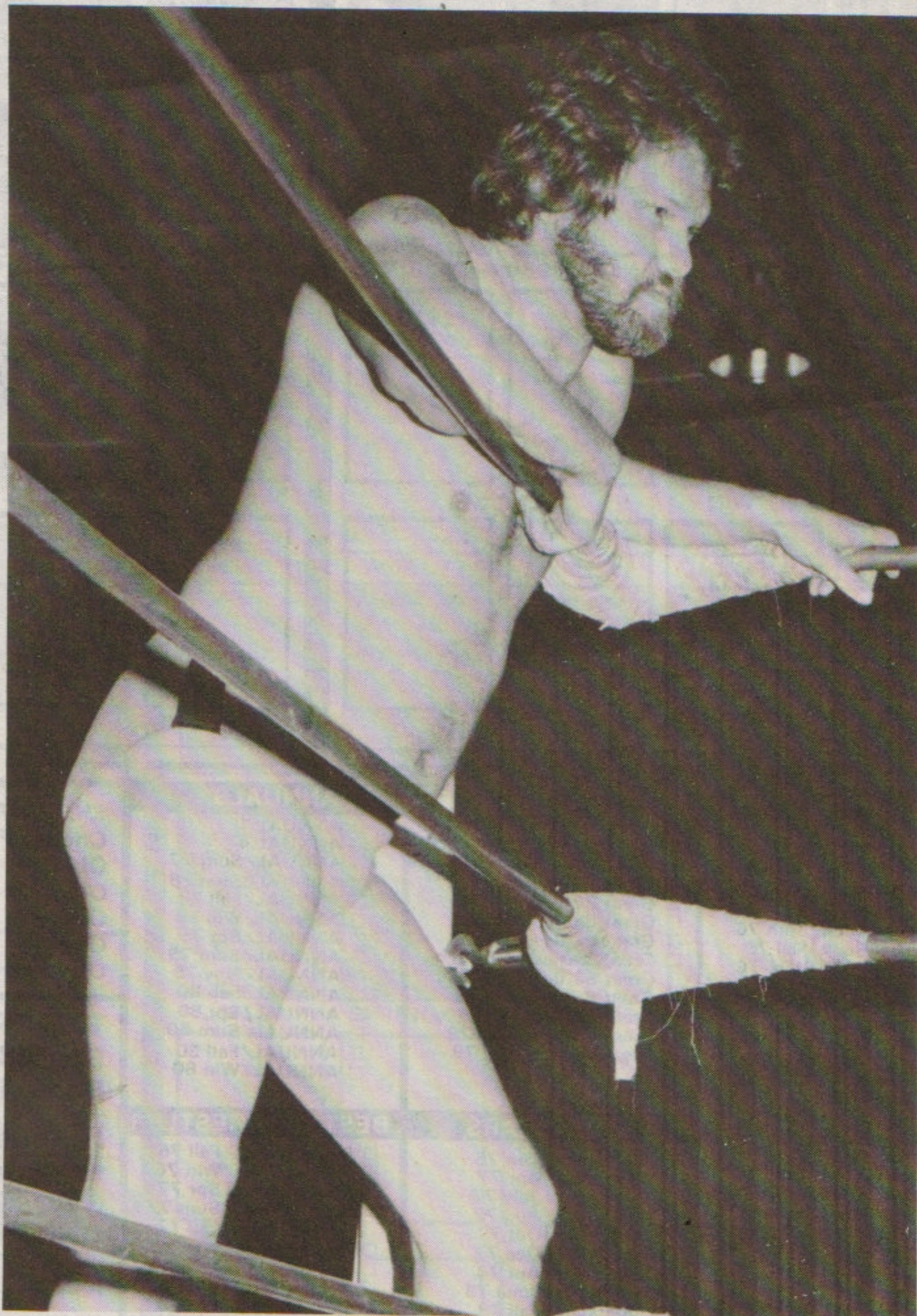
LA: You just don't throw a brother out.

OA: We just did.

LA: There's more to a brother than just words.

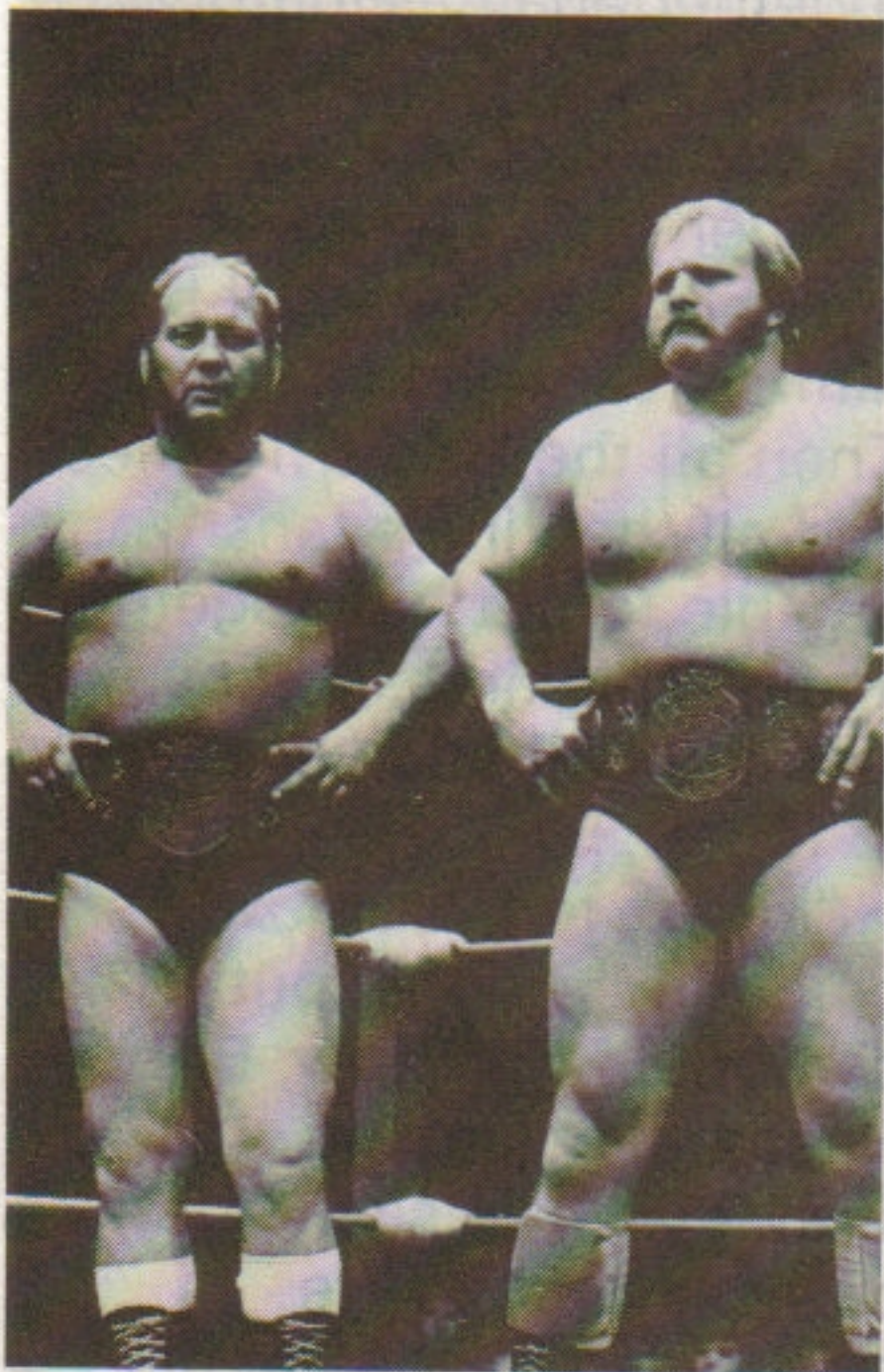
OA: That's right, things like trustin' and believin'. You proved you ain't worthy of our trust.

LA: You can't just banish some-



A despondent Lars Anderson stands alone before a match where he used to receive encouragement from his brothers. In the toughest decision of his life, Lars chose to stand by his principles, rather than follow his brothers' ruthless example.

one like that.
 OA: You deaf? We did.
 LA: I'll always be your brother.
 OA: Not until you prove yourself worthy of wearin' the name Anderson.
 LA: You really believe that?
 OA: Yup.
 LA: You'd turn on someone you love like that?
 OA: If we had to.
 LA: And you won't take the time to understand why I did this?
 OA: Doesn't matter.
 LA: This isn't just black-and-white, Ole.
 OA: Damn straight it is. Either you're with us or against us.
 LA: So what else is there to say?
 OA: Nothin'. Just it hurts me and Gene to lose a brother, that's all.



Gene and Ole Anderson, former co-holders of numerous tag team titles, have banished brother Lars from the family.

LA: And how do you think I feel?
 OA: Bad, and a lot worse when you're lying all bloody.
 LA: Ole, if that's how you want it, then I got nothin' further to say.
 OA: Yeah, well, take it easy Lars Smith.
 LA: Who?
 OA: Lars Smith. You can never call yourself Anderson again. ☐

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BODYSLAM & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 12)

horrible that fans applaud the theft. As long as Verne Gagne remains AWA champ, the title and the association is in disgrace.

No one could blame Bockwinkel if he retired from the sport that treated him so shabbily. After five years of struggling against top opponents and corrupt referees, he has finally been driven to defeat. It's a despicable day in wrestling history. For a man who has given the sport so much more than he's taken, Bockwinkel has every right to quit and live off his fortune.

Some of his friends have been urging Bockwinkel to do just that. For a man not willing to pander to fans, the AWA stinks. Either you imitate Gagne's acceptable cheating, they argue, or get out while the getting is good.

Yet, as his friends advise, they know Nick won't quit. It's just not in the man to surrender. No matter how many times they throw dirt in his face, no matter how many times they invent technicalities or rob him of victories, Nick will battle on. The man in him can do no other thing.

Verne Gagne may be champion now, but his crown sits shakily upon his bald head. The man knows Nick Bockwinkel is after him, and will soon beat him.

This column is not one moaning over defeat. Instead, it's a proclamation

of promise. As Nick said the day after his defeat, croaking from a still painful throat, "They haven't beaten me. Gagne and his flunkies, the fans and their stupidity, they can't beat me. They can rob me of my title, but they can't take away my chance to regain it.

"Gagne won't have the title long. As the nursery rhyme goes, 'All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again.' Humpty Dumpty Gagne can't count on corrupt officials forever. Sooner or later—no, just make that sooner—I'll beat him. I'll tear him apart. Then all the king's flunkies and all the king's fans won't be able to put him together again. This time, Gagne will lose the belt and be forced to retire.

"I can't tell you how it's going to be done, but it'll be done. Right now, Bobby Heenan is planning strategies. I've seen a few of them and they're brilliant. Heenan is at his best under pressure. Take my word for it. Gagne won't know what hit him. But all the bribes in the world won't save him.

"The AWA title is mine. I earned it, defended it, and I want it back. And I'll get it back.

"That's a promise."

Verne Gagne may have the title, but it could be the worst thing that ever happened to him. ☐